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# MEREDITH PARADE

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Old Parsonage, Meredith Parade. Built - 1792 Razed about 1938

Meredith Historical Society





# Meredith Parade

EDITED and COMPILED  
BY  
CARL F. BLAISDELL





# MEREDITH PARADE

## Preface

It is a very common saying that prefaces are never read, though every author probably who writes one thinks his will be an exception to that saying.

The record of the Parade and the Province Road has been written in response to the requests of friends and neighbors and the Meredith Historical Society. To those who read this book and derive pleasure for so doing, the author and compiler of these records wishes to state that it was prepared as a labor of love—love of home, family, and friends.

When writing a history one should relate the facts as truthfully and accurately as possible, and not make a good story for reading purposes only. References should be given whenever possible and credit given to those who contribute any material whatsoever.

This I wish to do in memory of my great-grandparents, John and Esther Kelley Blaisdell, who came to the Meredith Parade in 1790 after the Revolutionary War, he having served for a few months before it ended. He was only fourteen when he joined the American forces. My grandfather, David Blaisdell, was born in the old house which stood at the end of the Parade in 1809. He married Eliza Sanborn Gilman of Tamworth. They moved into the house across the road in 1854. This is the house where Armand J. Dauphin now lives. My father, Frank Napoleon Blaisdell, was born at his grandfather's house in 1851. My mother was Grace Evelyn Weeks, daughter of John Francis Weeks and Mary Richardson Strate of East Boston, Massachusetts. All these loved the old home farm in Meredith.

It is from these ancestors that I derived much of the information that I recorded, and it is to them that I am indebted for most of the facts stated herein. I dedicate this book as a memorial to their memory.

Carl F. Blaisdell



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## MEREDITH PARADE

About four and a half miles north of Bank Square in Laconia, going up North Main Street then following the old Province Road, steadily climbing uphill some four miles, you finally reach a high table-land 851 feet above sea level and 347 feet higher than Lake Winnepesaukee. This is Meredith Parade.

The road runs nearly north and south for over half a mile. It is here that some of the first settlers came to make their homes. When the town of Meredith was laid out the town square was planned to be here. In fact, according to the plan of the town which was accepted by the Masonian Proprietors May 1754, the town square would have been near the top of Blaisdell Hill.

From this high elevation a beautiful view of lakes and mountains may be seen in all directions excepting to the north, this being limited by the nearness of Blaisdell and Buttonwood Hills. Off to the right are the Sandwich Mountains, Whiteface, Passaconaway, and Paugus. The Ossipees are farther to the right, with Chocorua's pointed tip—one of the most photographed mountains in North America—filling the space between.

If you enjoy seeing these views, come with me up to the old Parade Ground. Musters were held here until about 1845; hence the name Meredith Parade. On the way I will tell you about the first settlers who came up from the coast to make their homes in the wilderness. The Indian wars, which had lasted almost one hundred years, had kept the people from venturing far from the settlements until 1763, when the Indians were driven out of the country into Canada.

Meredith was incorporated December 30th, 1768. The first town meeting was held at the house of Ebenezer Smith, Monday, the 21st day of March 1769.

The Winnipiseogee Guards was the name of the company which trained here. My grandfather, David Blaisdell, was captain of the company. My father could remember seeing Grandfather's coat, blue with brass buttons, up in the attic of the old home on the Parade.

Muster Day was a grand occasion, people coming from all the surrounding towns. Gingerbread and cider, corn cake and New England rum, were consumed in large quantities. It was a gala day for the community.

The first record we have of the settlement of the town is a return made to the proprietors in Exeter. The date is September 29, 1766. Many of the proprietors never saw the lots which they drew. They hired men to come to the new town and clear lots for them. The report



is as follows. Some of these places of settlement we must pass on our visit to the Parade.

Abraham Folsom. Son there. (Franklin Square, Lakeport.)  
Ephraim Robinson. Quimby there (Severance Road.)  
Eliphelet Rollins. Eaton there. (Hilliard Road.)  
Jonathan Shaw. Torrey there. (Watson Road, Weirs.)  
Jonathan Robinson. Bryant there. (Parade Road  
and Roller Coaster.)  
Samuel Goodhue. Pitman there. (Meredith Center Road.)  
William Mead. Himself there. (Parade Road.)  
Josiah Sanborn. Marston there. (Parade Road)  
Daniel Gale. Swain there. (Swain Road.) (Gardner.)  
Ebenezer Smith. Himself there. (Elm and North Main Street.)  
George Bean. Himself there. (Meredith Center Road.  
Above State School.)  
Job Judkins. Himself there. (Meredith Center Road.  
Above State School.)  
Thomas Danforth. Himself there. (Near present  
county buildings.)

Most of these families are gone and forgotten. Only cellar holes remain to tell their stories. A few comparatively new houses have been built on some of the old locations. Ebenezer Smith has descendants living in this vicinity, also Pitman and Marston.

Four years after the first report we find twenty-three settlers are here, and six more are recorded as "those that began". The first of these is William Crocket, having lot No. 2. This was a point lot as marked on the map of the town.

Let us proceed up to the Laconia State School administration building. This big yellow house is not the original structure, but no doubt is a very old building and stands on the site of the first log cabin of the Crocketts. Whether William above mentioned was a brother of Joshua or his father, I do not know. Joshua was selectman in 1771. He is supposed to be one of those who came up from Exeter with Ebenezer Smith, (Mary E. Neal Hannaford's History of Meredith) to see about the new town.

They camped the first night on Cotton Hill, and in the morning when they looked out over the vast wilderness to the north, their spirits failed, and five of the men turned back, but Smith and Crockett pressed on and started their clearings and log houses, Crockett at what is now the State School, and Smith at the head of the lake a little farther on at what is now the junction of Elm and Parade Roads.



The first meeting of the proprietors was in Exeter on November 10th, 1748. There must have been a second group of men who had applied for a grant as the record reads "Voted Ensign Oliver Smith to go to Hampton to know of Mr. Palmer whether there will be land amount for two towns or no."

They again met and chose Ensign Oliver Smith, Joseph Jewett, Joseph Smith, and Daniel Clark a committee "to go to lay out the township with the other comety which belonged to the other society."

We will stop at the Crockett House and relate an interesting bit of history which happened here on the morning of May 18th, 1801. If you had been here that morning you would have seen a cavalcade of about forty men and women, some on horseback, some in carts, and many walking side by side coming up the road. This was a party of converts and followers under the leadership of the Reverend Benjamin Randall, who had founded the Freewill Baptist denomination at New Durham Ridge, New Hampshire. This party was on its way to the Old Institution in New Hampton, and were to stop at Samuel Crockett's house for dinner. To get a full description read the Life of Benjamin Randall by Frederick Levi Wiley. It gives a full description of these pilgrimages and the hardships endured on the long journeys they made.

It is said of the Crocketts "In this host and family they found Christians with large hearts and keeping open doors for all of God's people." After being refreshed with material substances and sweet opportunity for song and prayer, in the afternoon they marched on in order, two abreast, up over the Parade to the house of Deacon Benjamin Pease, where a large crowd awaited them. There were so many people they had to go to the orchard, where a wonderful service of song and prayer was held under the leadership of Elder Martin. The next morning they proceeded on to New Hampton.

The first deed we find to the Crockett place is from Joseph Perkins to Joshua Crockett, but the original grantee was Samuel Palmer, Esq., who drew lot 2, a point lot, at the original drawing May 4th 1756 at Portsmouth. Perkins states he purchased of Peter Pierce and wife Mary. An the 22nd of September 1795 Perkins sold (this was lot 11, seventh range) to said Crockett. Both of these lots pass from Joshua to his son Samuel.

Samuel Crockett had two sons, Seldon and Moses. Seldon Crockett was a very prosperous and respected man. He was proprietor of the Broomfield House in Boston for many years. He was born in 1804 and married in 1831 Lucy, daughter of Thomas and Susan Elliott of Watertown, Massachusetts. They had one son, Seldon Frank, and four daughters, Sarah W., Susan E., Grace H., and Lucy E.





William Crockett had a log house at this place 1770 and Joshua had a frame house here April 1771. It is now the Administration Building of the Laconia State School.

The farm was deeded to John D. Cruickshank on August 25, 1894. Cruickshank deeded to Bainbridge W. Woodward, and he deeded on July 14, 1894, to Jacob Sanborn. Sanborn sold to Henry P. Hudson on June 12, 1895. The place was then sold to Albert W. Wilcox on September 17, 1898. Wilcox sold on October 18, 1899, to Susan E. and Herbert N. Sanborn. The State bought the farm for the State School on January 10, 1902. It is now the Administration Building.

What is now the road to Meredith Center which goes to the left, until the year 1842, did not exist. The lane went up to the barn, which stood just south of the pine grove. The Morgan family, who lived on the road farther up, always called this the "new road." Travel from Meredith Center had to go out the Weeks Road and down the Province Road.

### Joshua Woodman

Between the house of Crockett and Smith, on our way to the Parade, we pass a small one-story house, which originally was the home of Capt. Joshua Woodman. He is mentioned as moderator of the town meeting in 1785.



Joshua Woodman bought from Ebenezer Smith one hundred twenty acres on June 22nd 1786. Joshua owned his place in 1793. He had a son, Daniel, born in 1791. The farm passed from Daniel to Elbridge October 27th 1840.

Daniel Woodman was a blacksmith. When I was a boy there was a small enclosed piece of land opposite the house on the east side of the road. The walls enclosing this piece of land were there until a few years ago, when they were removed. I wondered why such a piece had been walled in, and the answer is that here stood for years Daniel's blacksmith shop. He also had a shop on the Parade opposite Young's Hotel.



Captain Joshua Woodman built this house in 1786. For many years it was the home of John Frank Crockett. It is now part of the Laconia State School.

Elbridge sold the property October 4, 1879, to John Frank Crockett. He was a cousin of Seldon. He carried on the farm for years until his death on July 8th 1901. His heirs sold the farm to the State of New Hampshire for use as a State School. It took a three days auction to dispose of the personal property. Mrs. Crockett had died July 27, 1892 and there were no children.

### **Ebenezer Smith**

The little house farther on, now used by the State School employees, is one-half of Highland Hall. This building was moved here by the late



J. Frank Crockett, and the other half was bought by Jacob Sanborn and placed on the old Ebenezer Smith cellar at the intersection of North Main with Elm Street. Much has been written, and much more could be written about this historic site. This has always been known as the "Smith Corner" in honor of the youngest son of Ebenezer, who lived here many years.

The Meredith Historical Society has published a booklet on the life of Ebenezer Smith, written and arranged by Edna Smith Ford. The Society has also at their building a piece of wallpaper, which is supposed to be a copy of the wallpaper from the front room of this house. The paper has been reproduced by the Strahan Wallpaper Company. They call the paper "The Meredith".

The first town meetings were held in the old Smith house, and for twelve years previous to 1781 the meetings were held here. The house was built before 1766 with a barn twenty-four by thirty feet. He had built a log cabin on his previous visits to stake out his claim.

He brought his wife, Sarah (Spiller) Smith, and baby on horseback to the new home in the spring of 1766. She rode on the same horse with her husband, carrying Ebenezer, Jr., who was born in Exeter on March 24th 1765.

The next child, Daniel, was born July 4th 1767, and was the first male child born in the town of Meredith. There was only a path through the forest at this time, as Province Road was not built until 1770 through Gilmanton.

The first child born in Meredith was Tamer Eaton daughter of Joseph. She was born March 11th 1767, but Smith claimed the two hundred acres of land as a premium, saying it belonged to the first male child born in town.

After the incorporation of the town Col. Smith was a leading citizen for forty years. He was proprietor's clerk, first town clerk, justice of the peace, selectman for thirty-six years, representative to the General Court, president of the Senate for six years, Colonel of the First Regiment of Militia, and often received all votes cast in the town for offices of honor and trust, such as Senator and Presidential Elector. He was Judge of the county court from 1784 to 1787 and Judge of the Probate Court from 1797 to 1805. At one time he received votes for Governor. He was the town's largest landholder and gave large tracts to many of his children before his death occurred on August 22nd 1807. His wife died January 17, 1807. Both are buried in the little cemetery at the head of Lake Opechee.

After the death of Ebenezer Smith the property passed to his youngest son, Washington, born in 1784, who lived here until his death on



March 18th 1855. He was one of those men who were so badly injured in the falling of the town house at Meredith Village. This accident was a contributory factor in the separation of the town and formation of the new town of Laconia.

The heirs of Washington Smith, on November 8, 1864, deeded the place to Benjamin J. and Mehitable Cole, and they deeded to James H. and Abby H. Plummer on January 9, 1865. Cole and wife, Mehitable, and James and Abby Plummer sold to Oliver Goss December 25th, same year. They sold the right and title to two thirds part of the property.

On January 1st, 1866 Benjamin Cole sold to Joseph Pickering the dwelling house and barn. On July 5, 1871, Jacob Sanborn bought of Pickering three and one-half acres of the lot at the corner. The buildings were not standing at the time, having been torn down during the ownership of Pickering, a year or two before.

Highland Hall, which stood on the right side of the road, just beyond the old pound up on the Parade, was built by my uncle, John Herbert Weeks, on leased land of my Grandfather Blaisdell, for dance purposes. When it was sold—a part of the building to Mr. J. Frank Crockett, and a part to Jacob Sanborn—Mr. Sanborn moved his part and placed it on the old Washington Smith cellar hole. I remember the house very well. The Frank Fields family lived there for many years. Some time after they moved away that house burned to the ground, April 17, 1925, and again the cellar hole became filled with rubbish.

Jacob Bond, grandson of Jacob Sanborn, received title to the property by will. See Probate No. 10256. On March 30, 1938, Frank Morrison purchased the place. On November 1st 1941 it was again sold to Gordon Chapman, who in turn sold the lot to Raymond and Stella Roux on April 9, 1951. They built the present ranch house, which they sold to Joseph A. and Mabel J. Gagnon on June 21, 1952. They in turn sold to the present owners, Edward F. and Nancy P. Schofield, on August 31, 1955. They have made extensive improvements to the place and made it a very attractive home.

### Elm Street

The first laid out road in the town according to the records is now Elm Street. Said layout was made December 30th, 1769, and reads as follows: "Laid out a highway beginning at the main road about two rods south of Ebenezer Smith, Esq's dwelling house, thence South 70° East 96 rods, South 50° East 40 rods, South 70° East 20 rods, South 60° East 32 rods, South 28° East 80 rods, South 50° East 41 rods, to Abraham Folsom's land, laid out two rods wide, the whole distance 309 rods."

The following year, March 30th 1770, they laid out a highway "beginning at the Winnepesaukee River at a white oak tree spotted on four

sides, standing on the point of land in the fourteenth lot, called a point lot, lot in the first division in said town, being the lot of land where Abraham Folsom now lives, thence North 44° West 18 rods, North 1° West 32 rods, North 58° West 70 rods, North 39° West 46 rods, to the highway first mentioned, the whole distance 166 rods."

Before proceeding up the Parade Road let us go down Elm Street for a short distance, in fact to the Tilton Brook, so-called, this brook being a part of the boundary between wards one and six of the city of Laconia and the old boundary between Meredith and Gilford.

From July 13, 1876, to March 24, 1893, the Bartlett farm, now the Country Club, was in the town of Gilford. Quite a few of the buildings we pass are of recently new construction, but remembering that today's happenings are tomorrow's history, I will record them briefly.

The first building on the left is the stable, which was built by Mr. Jacob Sanborn, who had it constructed for the use of the members of Laconia Grange, to stable their horses on meeting nights. They paid a yearly rental of thirty-five dollars, but after a few years the Grange decided to build its own barn on its own land. It was rumored at that time that Mr. Sanborn intended to give the entire parcel of land at the corner to the Grange at a later date, but because of their action in constructing a building of their own he became displeased, and so by the instigation of a few the Grange lost a valuable piece of property. Whether this is true or not, I do not know. Rumor has many tongues. After the building ceased to be used for stable purposes it was used for storage, but much of the time it remained idle. It passed from one owner to the other with the rest of the corner lot until Mr. Raymond Roux and wife, Stella, laid out the land in house lots.

The property was sold to Francoeur-Gill Co. August 12, 1954, who sold to Mr. William Bisson on August 15th, 1955. Mr. Bisson sold a lot of land and the barn to Grady and Lucille Fannin on April 21, 1958, who have changed the barn into an attractive home. They bought of Laconia Grange their stable and moved it back on their lot. These buildings are to be the District Headquarters of the Assemblies of God. The Fannins came from central Texas and have been in church work twenty-four years.

### **The Washington Smith Cemetery**

The Opechee, Washington Smith, and Round Bay are all different names for the same cemetery on the Parade Road just northerly of the junction of North Main Street and Elm Street. This is a very old yard, although we find that the old town yard on the Parade is a little older.

A picture of the oldest stone which has a mark on it is shown in



the Mary Butler Chapter book, with this lettering, "E. Z. D. 1792 daughter of S. C. Age 46." Who was she?

Others buried in this yard are Ebenezer Smith and his numerous descendants. There are also the Folsom, Roberts, Crockett, and Woodman families.

There are many unmarked graves, with only rough field stones. There is the Tilton monument, which has no markings because the two Tilton brothers could not decide what inscription should be put on it. Therefore there is none.

John Tilton and Abraham Tilton lived at the Weirs, and formerly at what is known as the Hall Place.

This old cemetery is the last resting place of Revolutionary soldiers those who fought in the Rebellion, and those in the Mexican War.

This yard is mowed once a year by the city, but many stones are down and broken. Only one lot has a trust fund, that of Samuel S. Blaisdell and his wife, Susan Smith.

The following is a list of the Revolutionary soldiers as compiled by the late Capt. Robert Foss.

Col. Ebenezer Smith, lieutenant colonel, 10th regiment, New Hampshire militia. Was at Saratoga September 1777.

Lt. Joseph Roberts. 14th company, 10th regiment, New Hampshire militia. Col. Badger, 1776.

Capt. Joshua Crockett, 10th regiment, captain 4th company, Col. Joseph Badger.

Rev. Nicholas Folsom, private in Capt. Chase Taylor's company. Bennington campaign.

John Folsom, private in Stark's regiment 1775. At Bennington.

Abraham Folsom. No record found.

David Watson, private in Capt. Nathaniel Ambrose's company, served at Saratoga.

Job Judkins. Was in Capt. Aaron Kinsman's company. Buried in the corner of the field at the intersection of the Meredith Center and Lane roads on state property.

Jeremiah Smith, private in Jeremiah Clough's company, Col. Poor's regiment.

The following is a list of those who fought in the Civil War.

Henry J. Smith, wounded at Gettysburg. Died at York, Pennsylvania, August 22, 1863, age 20. Grandson of Ebenezer Smith and son of Joshua R. and wife, Clarissa Crockett Smith. Corporal in 12th regiment, New Hampshire volunteers.

John S. Collins. Company H, 12th regiment, New Hampshire volunteers. Born September 21, 1835. Died October 30, 1893.

Charles F. Corliss. 2nd regiment, New Hampshire volunteers. Died July 27, 1861, age 20 years, 5 months.

Smith D. Corliss, 5th regiment, New Hampshire volunteers. Died September 16, 1862, age 26 years, 9 months.

Joseph G. Corliss, 2nd regiment, New Hampshire volunteers. Died March 17, 1863, age 20 years, 3 months.

Sons of Gorrill and Mary Smith Corliss. Grandsons of Washington Smith, and great-great-grandsons of Hon. Ebenezer Smith.

The following is a list of those whose war records are unknown.

Capt. Joshua Woodman. Credited to Sanbornton. He lived in Meredith in 1790.

Lt. Daniel Woodman, born 1831, died March 19, 1866, age 35.

Maj. Samuel Lawrence. Born 1777, died September 4, 1820.

Jonathan Watson. (War record not known but has flag on Decoration Day.)

Capt. Joseph Roberts, born 1771, died January 20, 1849.

Such is the record of those who took up arms in defense of their country. No doubt there are others lying in the unmarked graves, with only the rough field stones to mark their resting place.

### **Laconia Grange**

The next building is the Laconia Grange hall. I am going to quote from a brief history of this organization written by the late Mrs. Herbert Sanborn and presented at the fiftieth anniversary on the evening of March 8, 1927.

"About 1865 at the close of the Civil War, when business of all kinds was trying to adjust itself to the changing conditions, the idea of a fraternal organization to aid the farmers entered the mind of O. H. Kelley, later known as 'Father Kelley'. With the aid of a few others, after



a great deal of difficulty, the order of Patrons of Husbandry was organized in Washington, D. C. January 7th 1868. The name 'grange' meaning 'farm home' was given to the subordinate degrees, but later became applicable to all degrees.

On August 19, 1875, Gilman Grange No. 1 of Exeter was organized. At length the subject began to be discussed in Laconia, but it was not until March 4th, 1887 that a meeting was called at the Crockett School House, and Brother J. M. Taylor of Sanbornton was asked to speak on the aims and purposes of the Grange.



Laconia Grange Hall, built 1887. Still used by the Order of Patrons of Husbandry.

A petition was circulated for signers of those who wished to organize a Grange. The next meeting was held Wednesday evening, March 9th in the same place. At that meeting Brother Taylor and Brother E. C. Hutchinson of Milford, General Deputy of the State Grange, were present, and a petition was presented containing the names of the following charter members:

S. J. P. Hadley, Jacob Sanborn, Israel D. Head, Stephen F. Crockett, Seth Flanders, Everett L. Hadley, John H. Robinson, Leroy J. Severance, William J. Severance, Harvey M. Sargent, John B. Corliss, John E. Currier, Frank N. Blaisdell, Julia A. Hadley, Augusta P. Sanborn, Vinnie E. Croc-



kett, Hannah G. Robinson, Marietta Severance, Ellen M. (Corliss) Tilton, Dora B. Noble, Bertha H. Flanders, Christina Flanders, and Eva Z. Sargent.

Of all these twenty-four the last survivor was Bertha Flanders, and she passed away some years ago.

The Grange has observed its seventieth anniversary. Like most things in life, it has had its "ups and downs" but still keeps on. The Grange has always been willing to support all movement that tends to the betterment of the town, state or nation, in all ways possible. To charity it has always been willing to add its mite, always sending fruit and flowers to the sick and to the needy, and the emblematic sickle as a token of respect to its deceased brothers and sisters.

Its membership has included men and women of prominence in our town. I might mention a few, the late Dr. Ossian Goss, Judge Thomas Whipple, Judge and Mrs. F. M. Beckford, Thomas J. Guay, George F. Mallard, Walter F. Peaslee, Governor Henry B. Quimby, Charles W. Tyler, Mr. and Mrs. J. Henry Story, Judge and Mrs. George Everett, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lougee, Judge Oscar L. Young, and many, many others.

For many years the oldest member was the late Albert W. Head. He became a member May 11, 1887. He had always been a loyal and staunch supporter of the order for seventy-one years, serving some thirty years as treasurer. Mr. Head passed away November 11, 1958.

The oldest member at the present time is Mrs. Tressy (Marsh) Farmer. She living in Rochester prevents her attendance at meetings, but her interest is still with the Grange, she having been a member sixty-eight years.

The next oldest member is Isaac W. Trojano who joined November 7th, 1899, making his membership fifty-nine years.

I am proud to say that I am next in line, having joined November 22, 1901, just as soon after my fourteenth birthday as possible, making fifty-seven years as my years of service. I feel that we should step down and let the younger members take our places, but I have never regretted the services I have rendered to the best of my ability.

The last of the "old-timers" is William O. Pearson. He joined on December 13, 1904, making his membership fifty-four years. None have been more loyal in giving their support to the Grange than he.

The total of the years of these five members is three hundred nine years. May the coming generations prove as loyal to the cause, as we who have tried to carry on the principles of the founding fathers of faith, hope and charity.

## **Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Forger**

The next home beyond the Grange Hall is the property of Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Forger. Mrs. Forger (formerly Letha Puffenburger) owned a house on Keasor Court downtown. The land on which it set was needed by the city for a pumping station, so Mrs. Forger bought the lot next to the Hall and moved the building up there. This happened in 1946, date of deed from Walter Kilvert, October 5th, Book 288, Page 397, Belknap County Records.

Mr. Kilvert had bought the land from Frank Tremblay June 11, 1924, Book 171, Page 313. Mr. Trembley had bought of Osgood Burdeen on May 21, 1919, Book 153, Page 446. Mr. Burdeen bought of Lorenzo D. and Susan P. Dolloff May 7, 1892, recorded in Book 87, Page 104. They in turn had bought of C. T. and L. D. Richardson January 20, 1879, in Book 64, Page 446.

It is interesting to note that they "reserved the rear part of the barn and shed on said land heretofore sold to Oliver Goss". This was the old Ebenezer Smith barn. The Richardsons bought part of the Washington Smith place May 13, 1875, from George W. Stevens, who I believe settled the Washington Smith estate. The deed is in Book 64, Page 435, being the same land conveyed to said Stevens by B. J. Cole and wife by deed dated May 20, 1874.

Washington Smith, son of the Hon. Ebenezer, died March 18, 1855, being severely injured at the falling of the town house in Meredith Village.

Previous to the moving of the house in 1946 from Keasor Court, the land during the intervening years was used for agricultural purposes.

## **Simonds**

The next house on the left is comparatively new, having been built a few years ago by Charles A. Bickford, brother of Guy, who owned the land. Guy sold the property after the death of Charles to Mr. Alfred Simonds and his wife Jessie December 1943, and they now make it their home. Mr. Bickford still owns a large part of the lot.

Like all the land in this locality, the title can be traced right back to Ebenezer Smith.

Guy Bickford received the land from his aunt, Mary A. Hall, who lived for many years across the way. Mrs. Hall bought of Lyman Pickering July 16, 1908. He had bought of B. J. Cole February 17, 1876.

The heirs of the Hon. Ebenezer Smith, the first owner of this land, sold to his youngest son, Washington, November 4, 1807, two hundred acres. The heirs of Washington deeded to B. J. Cole November 8, 1864,



he having died after being injured in the fall of the town house.

The once big farm of Ebenezer today has been divided and subdivided into more than thirty different parcels.

### **The Guy L. Bickford Place formerly Mary Hall**

We will now cross the street to the southerly side. Here is the site of one of the oldest houses in this locality, although the house now standing was built in 1896 by Charles and Mary A. Hall after losing their first home, which stood on the other side of the road farther on beyond the brook.

Mr. and Mrs. Hall came here from Wentworth, New Hampshire, and purchased the Ella F. Hersey place December 4, 1894. The night of July 15, 1896, those buildings burned, and in the summer of 1896 they built the present set of buildings on the old Tilton cellar, South side of the road because of the better water, both well and spring. Here Mr. and Mrs. Hall lived until the death of Mrs. Hall September 15, 1932, when the place became the property of her nephew, Guy L. Bickford.

Mrs. Hall was the "Up-in-Town" correspondent of the News and Critic, a paper published by the Weeks Brothers for many years. Her items were unique and often copied by journalists all over the country. People often were heard to remark "I take the paper so I can read Mrs. Hall's up-in-town items." Here is a sample as I remember it. "Clara Davis fell down the back stairs last week and since then has been feeling rather slim." A New York daily quoted the item with the following: "This is the first time we have heard of this method of reducing."

Mrs. Mary A. Hall bought this lot, one acre and forty-three square rods, the 22nd of April 1895, from James E. and Mattie J. Willey, who had bought of J. F. Crockett, who owned all the land on the south side of the road from the Tilton Brook to the land of Ossian Goss, which is now the "Lake View Development" of W. M. Bisson.

Renton D. Carter had sold this property to Mr. Crockett May 6, 1884. The old one-story house was burned one night in the month of May 1888. It was a very cold night for that time of year and my father went out to build a smudge to protect his potatoes from the frost, and he saw the fire. My mother and I were at my aunt's in Boston. I remember his telling of the fire, although I was too young to remember the house, for all I remember is the old cellar hole.

Ernest C. Hazerick was the owner of the land who sold to Mr. Carter on September 22, 1874. Previous to Mr. Hazerick the place was owned by Harrison and Hannah Swain. They sold the place to him

December 12, 1853. The Swains had bought of John C. and Hannah H. Davis December 24, 1853. John C. and Hannah had bought of Daniel Davis May 12, 1847, "same as conveyed to me by John Smith, Esq. and same that he purchased of the heirs of Daniel Tilton, November 4, 1846."

On March 19, 1818 Daniel Tilton sold Joseph Tilton one-half part of the land "I purchased of Washington Smith March 30th 1811, also one-half part of my barn and one-half part of my tanning yard, and also one-half part of the great part of my dwelling house from the ridge pole down through the same, meaning the south part of the house, and also the privilege in the cellar and also the privilege in the oven in the other part of the house, and one-half part of my shop and one-half part of my bark house."

I have a record that says Joseph was the son of Daniel. Joseph later went to Meredith Center to live. I have always understood that there was another brother, John and that both were at one time running the tannery. They could not agree as to what should be put on the stone in the Smith Cemetery. Therefore it stands today with no name on it. John Tilton married Caroline Wadleigh.

It would seem that Washington Smith built these buildings described in the above deed, for on November 13th 1811 Washington Smith sold to Daniel Tilton, "A certain parcel of land lying in Meredith, it being part of my homestead farm where I now live, beginning at the Meadow Brook, etc" and containing about one acre, be the same more or less, with the building thereon standing. This land was of course part of his father's farm, the Hon. Ebenezer Smith, which became his November 4, 1807, by deed from the heirs of Ebenezer Smith, his father.

### **Maurice Taylor Farm**

We now return to the large set of farm buildings on the right of Parade Road belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Taylor, who no doubt run one of the finest dairy farms in this section of the state.

This farm was originally part of the "Squire" John Smith place. When John died in 1857 his farm was divided, and Susan, his daughter, who had married Samuel Blaisdell on November 8, 1842, received as her share the land on the right side of the Province Road, on November 25, 1868, by deed from her sister, Polly, who kept the remaining land and building on the left side of the road.

Susan died May 1869, and Samuel died September 7, 1878. They had started to build the farm buildings now standing, and on August 26, 1880, Thomas Lang et als, heirs of Samuel, deeded the farm to Israel D. Head of Center Harbor.





Samuel Blaisdell place, built about 1875, now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Taylor.

Mr. Head and his son Albert improved the place and added to the acreage by adding part of the old Folsom farm, making one of the largest and finest farms producing milk and cream in Laconia.

On April 16, 1941, Mr. Albert Head sold the farm to Maurice Taylor, after being in the dairy business for over fifty years.

### **John and Thomas McIntyre Place**

We now come to the beautiful old Colonial farm home, formerly the "Squire" John Smith place, now the property of John and Thomas McIntyre, who purchased the place in 1954 and have improved and restored this old home to its former loveliness.

As a child I well remember visiting with my mother, Aunt August and Uncle Jacob Sanborn, and eating caraway cookies that she always kept in her pantry. I did not like the caraway and used to scrape it off when I had the opportunity to do so, for I did not like cookies with caraway.

There is no doubt but this place is well over one hundred seventy-five years old. Originally the land was drawn to Jonathan Wadleigh, one of the original proprietors, but evidently from the records John Neal was



there claiming the land on November 15, 1770, "one acre cleared, and three acres fell."

On April 14, 1773, John Neal sells to Ebenezer Smith Lot 1, fifth range, one hundred acres, for ninety pounds.

The place became the home of Daniel Smith on October 14, 1800, the oldest son of Ebenezer, (he being the first white male child in the town of Meredith).

Daniel's son, Noah Smith, of Mexican War fame, was born here, and he and his sister Nancy helped set out the popular trees which stood on each side of the drive leading in from the main road. These trees stood until a year or two ago and were replaced by maples by the present owners. (See Old Meredith and Vicinity)



Esquire John Smith Place built about 1773. Honorable Ebenezer Smith bought the place 1773 for son John who lived there until his death in 1857. For many years the home of Jacob Sanborn. Sold by his heirs to W. W. Walker. Now property of John McIntyre.

Daniel Smith moved to Gilmanton, and the place passed to his younger brother, John, on the 25th of September 1816. "Squire" John, as he was known, married Annis Perkins, daughter of John and Lucy (Prescott) Perkins. They became the parents of Polly, Susan, Annis, Sarah, and John.



Polly never married and inherited the home farm at her father's death, Susan married Samuel Blaisdell and built the house on the part of the farm now owned by Maurice Taylor.

When Polly Smith died in 1877 she willed her place to Jacob Sanborn, who was born in 1843 in Moultonboro. He came to the Smith farm to assist with the farm work when a boy of fourteen.

Jacob Sanborn married Augusta Perley, daughter of Dr. John L. and Dora (Randlett) Perley. They had one daughter, Pearl, who married J. Waldo Bond of Winchester, Massachusetts.

Mrs. Bond died in 1927, leaving two children, Jacob and Constance. Jacob was given his grandfather's farm. The war with Japan came, and Jacob was called. He was on the cruiser Quincy that was totally destroyed when a Jap bomb went down the smoke stack. All on the ship were lost.

The Sanborn farm became on June 24, 1938, the property of Walter and Mildred Walker, who established a dairy business. Mrs. Walker died, and Mr. Walker married Mrs. Lillian B. Browning. Mr. Walker died on February 21, 1953, and Mrs. Walker sold the farm to John and Thomas J. McIntyre on April 28, 1954. They have restored the old house to its former beauty and charm.

It was in the shed at this place where the old plan of the town of Meredith was found. It was in a tin tube, tucked in on the plate under the eaves, evidently had been there for years. It is now in the State Historical Building at Concord.

### **William A. Camp**

And now we have arrived at the "four corners" so called. This is an interesting spot because of the fact that the roads turning to the right and left are really one road, leading out from Long Bay on the east to the Sanbornton Bay on the west. This road was laid out by the selectmen of Meredith May 20, 1770, and further extended March 30, 1772, fifty-six rods. Then on September 18, 1779, the road was laid out 3,696 feet farther and turning to the north, past the house of Sander Roberts, through lots 9 and 10 in the third range to the Weare (Weirs) Road, so called.

Going back to the corner, the Lane Road (this is not named for any family by that name, but simply as a cow lane or a lane leading to the main road) was laid out March 1st, 1770. The second part, starting at the sixth range line and running past the Perkins farm to Lake Winnisquam, was laid out August 12th, 1778.

This road is now known by three different names and divided into three different sections. The center of this road is the lot line between



the first and second lots in the fifth range, one-half of the road taken from each lot.

We will first turn to the right and go down the hill. This road is now called the Severance Road because the Severances lived in the big white house on the right beyond the brook. Before reaching the brook you will have noticed two walls one on the right and one on the left opposite each other. These walls mark the line between the fourth and fifth ranges. We are now at the fourth range of one hundred lots.

Jacob Severance married Susan Roberts, who was born in 1812 and married Mr. Severance March 20, 1842. Susan Roberts was the youngest daughter of Joseph and Mary (Davis) Roberts, and for many years this place was known as the Roberts place.

The ell of this house is one of the oldest houses in this locality and has quite a history. The ell part referred to originally stood on the other side of the road. The old well and lilac bushes are still there. The date when the present house was built and the ell moved over is not known, but we do know it was done by the second Joseph Roberts, and when Mr. Turcotte owned the place he had the cellar dug under the ell, and the workmen found an English penny with date before the Revolution.



Lieutenant Joseph Roberts built this house before 1770. It was owned by the family for 86 years. Present owner William A. Camp.



The land was first granted to Oliver Smith, lot 10, range 4, one hundred acres, found in Book 1, Page 84, of Strafford County Records, July 8, 1766, "Abigail Roberts, widow of John, late of Brentwood, to my son Joseph, the right of Oliver Smith, the original proprietor."

Joseph was here in 1770 and had a frame house built. Joseph was in the New Hampshire militia with Col. Badger in 1776. In July 1777 he was in Capt. Nathaniel Wilson's Company.

In 1790 his family consisted of two males over sixteen years of age and one male under sixteen years of age, and three females.

Capt. Joseph Roberts was born in 1771. He married Mary Davis and had a large family. One of his sons, Joshua, born 1796, married Betsey Sinclair. They had two daughters, Mary S. and Eliza Jane. The father died, and the mother, Betsey, married Noah Robinson.

The Roberts farm had been divided between Joseph and Joshua. Joseph died January 20, 1849. On April 18, 1846, Joseph deeded to Jacob Severance one-half of the farm, and on June 5, 1851, Joseph R. Mead, Administrator, sold Elbridge G. Severance twenty-two acres, and on January 31, 1856 Elbridge sold the land to Jacob. The farm then passed to his son William, who sold on September 28, 1914, to Sarah J. Yeaton. She sold on May 20, 1922, to Alphonse J. Turcotte.

On February 28, 1936, the place passed to Gardner Stevens, who restored the house to its original Colonial architecture. On September 24, 1946, Mrs. William A. Camp became the owner, and it is now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Camp as their home.

### **Robert Price (Rev. Nicholas Folsom)**

We will now take the right-hand road beyond Mr. Camp's and soon arrive at the second John Folsom house, now the property of Robert Price. He bought this place from Albert W. Head on December 1st 1941. Only a part of the original Folsom farm was conveyed. Five generations of Folsoms lived on this place.

The original house, I can remember, was an old fashioned one-story structure, which stood up on the top of the hill, where a fine view of the lake and mountains is obtainable. Only the old well remains.

Nicholas Folsom built this place, and the new house at the foot of the hill, the property of Mr. Price, was built by Joseph G. Folsom, this being the fourth house on the property.

The original cabin was built by John, standing southwest of this house and near the old cemetery, where Nicholas and his wife, Hannah,





Five generations lived on this farm. The present house was built by Joseph G. Folsom 1820. The last one of the family was Charles who died in 1897. It is now the property of Robert Price.

their son, Joseph G., and his wife Deborah, were buried.

(D. A. R. book) In 1894 the yard was removed, and the remains taken to Union Cemetery. It is stated that when the graves were opened it was found that the bodies had become almost wholly petrified, the casket wholly decayed, but Deborah's black silk gown was as perfect as the day she was buried.

Joseph G. Folsom was the son of the Reverend Nicholas Folsom. He was born at the old home on the hill January 6, 1801. He married Deborah Davis, and they had two children, Sarah Hannah who married John M. L. Swain, and John C. who was born August 6th, 1831, who lived on the old farm all his life. He married Abbie Blaisdell, daughter of Winchell and his wife Mary Jane Runnells. They had a son, Charles N. born January 6, 1867, and died May 22, 1897. He married Hannah Bertha Flanders, and they had a son, John, Flanders, who died May 30, 1897, eight days after the death of his father, Charles N.

Charles' mother and widow sold the farm on May the 21st 1900 to Addison G. Cook, who in turn sold to the Diamond Match Company. The next owner was F. W. Lull, March 2, 1904, who sold to Israel D. Head.



Mr. Head kept part of the farm, which is now the property of Maurice Taylor. A part of the farm and the buildings were deeded by Albert Head, son of Israel, to Robert Price December 1, 1941.

Such is the history of the old Folsom farm and the first minister in Meredith, who lived there, the Reverend Nicholas Folsom. He married 289 couples and baptized 297 persons. He was a great-great-uncle of Mary Plummer (Clemenceau), wife of George Clemenceau, eminent French statesman.

### **Rev. Nicholas Folsom**

**By E. W. Lang**

Every section of this New England of ours, in fact every section of this broad country, had its pioneer preacher. To the unselfish devotion to the cause to which he was commissioned, to preach to men and women, this country owes its proud position as the most enlightened and prosperous nation on the globe.

Of this pioneer it may be truthfully said that he endured hardships and privations to which the preacher of today is a stranger, as comforts are measured in this generation, while he was forced to make more physical effort, for he was compelled to till the soil for his livelihood and to travel long distances on horseback over uneven roads and often through nearly pathless forests. Such a pioneer preacher of the Winnepesaukee Lake region was the Reverend Nicholas Folsom.

He was born in Brentwood June 12, 1747. An uneducated man, he was however a man of more than ordinary gifts, a man of sterling integrity, practical common sense, and thoroughly in earnest and deeply impressed that the Master had chosen him to deliver the message to the children of men.

Early in the fourth decade of the eighteenth century there came to this country a young Englishman named John Smith. He settled in Brentwood, New Hampshire, and finding another man in the neighborhood by the name of John Smith, he changed his name to John Foulsham, this being the name of his native place in the old country. He became assistant to his friend, Ebenezer Smith, in surveying and laying out the towns of Sanbornton, Gilford, Meredith (then New Salem), Moultonboro, and Sandwich.

During this time he bought land near Sanbornton Bay and planned to build his log cabin home there, but Ebenezer offered to give him thirty acres in New Salem provided he would settle on it, which offer Folsom accepted. Ebenezer's deed to John Folsom for thirty acres is dated June 24, 1775. The lot was about two miles southeast of what became known as Meredith Parade. Smith had settled nearly ten years before.



John Folsom deeded to his son, Nicholas, this same thirty acres on April 17, 1786. Ebenezer Smith sold to Nicholas Carr Folsom twenty-three and one-half acres, part of Lot 11, fourth range, first division, August 2, 1770. Reverend Nicholas spent his life on the farm, dying December 29, 1830. His wife was Mehitable (Flanders) Folsom. She passed away July 16, 1828.

**Dr. John C. Eckels  
(S. J. P. Hadley)**

Just beyond the old Severance house the road divides. We will turn left and go up the hill to Dr. John Eckels' farm, formerly known as the Hadley place.

This farm was originally the northern part of the Roberts lot. Betsey (Sinclair) Roberts, widow of Joshua Roberts, married Noah Robinson, who died, and the farm passed to his son Joshua Robinson.



The houses shown, one on right built by Joshua Robinson, one on left built by Stephen Hadley. Both burned November 5, 1900. The present house built about three years later. Now property of Dr. Eckels.

Joshua B. Robinson sold the farm to Stephen J. P. Hadley in 1881, and he built a new home to the east of the old house. Stephen married



Julia Ladd, daughter of Barnet H. Ladd, and they became the parents of a son, Everett, and a daughter, Annie.

On the morning of Monday, Nov. 5, 1900 the cry of "fire" was heard, and I remember skipping school to go to the fire. When I reached the Hadley house the neighbors were removing what furnishings they could from the old house. The two places were connected by sheds, and the men tried to push these buildings over with long poles, which proved useless, and soon the fire had reached the second dwelling. If the fire had occurred now, with our modern fire-fighting equipment, the second house could have been saved. As it was, both places were a total loss, except the barn and outbuildings which stood some distance from the houses.

Everett Hadley built the present house on the old cellar hole in 1903 and carried on the farm until 1907, when he sold the place and moved with his wife, Hattie, and daughter, Marion, to Alberta, Canada. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hadley passed away some years ago, but their daughter, Marion, who had married a Thomas Henry Davis, still lives on the original ranch which her father established a few miles outside Vermillion.

Mr. Belisle bought the Hadley farm and carried on the same until May 18, 1910, when he sold to Frank DeBlois, who from time to time added to this farm until the acreage had more than doubled, and the land runs through to Lake Paugus. Mr. DeBlois died October 16, 1907, and his widow and the two boys carried on the milk business established by their father and kept the farm in a first-class state of cultivation.

Mrs. DeBlois on June 22, 1950, sold the place to Dr. John C. Eckels, who has established one of the finest up-to-date dairy farms in this locality.

### **The Flanders Place**

The land comprising this farm has the distinction of being granted to the original settlers by Mark Hunkins Wentworth, father of Governor John Wentworth, lot 2, fifth range, "I drew this lot as the original grantee June 28th 1774", one hundred acres in Meredith.

He deeded this lot to David Lawrence of Epping. David deeded to Gordon Lawrence the above land and also lot 3 in the sixth range, "the latter I purchased from Daniel Gale", March 22, 1781.

Gordon deeded forty-seven acres to Hazen in 1811. He and his wife Sally in 1818 deeded seventy acres to James Crockett, a part of the homestead.

The last meetings of the Proprietors were held in this house in 1811. It is said that this was a post tavern at one time, with a clock on





Many years known as the James Crockett place, coming here in 1818, but the house was built by David Lawrence about 1781. Last meeting of Proprietors held in this house 1811. Now owned by Lewis and Mildred DeLucca.

the south side. Of this I have no proof. (Reference, Old Meredith and Vicinity)

James Crockett, the son of John Crockett, married Mary, daughter of John and Patience Young Tenney. She lived to be ninety-eight years old, having survived her husband and five children. They were Matilda, born in 1811, who married Joseph Robinson; Almira, who married Daniel Blaisdell; Mary, who married Aaron Blaisdell; Clarissa, who married Joshua R. Smith, born in 1817; and James, the only son, who died in 1824, aged four years.

Upon the death of James Crockett in 1855 the farm passed to Frank Robinson, son of Joseph W. and Matilda (Crockett) Robinson. The widow of James survived until December 26, 1877, aged ninety-eight years.

On June 24, 1875, the farm became the property of Langdon G. Morgan by writ of possession. Mr. Morgan sold to John and Seth Flanders one hundred fifty-two acres on November 14, 1879. John sold his interest to Seth, who sold to Jacob Sanborn in 1902.



On June 1st 1918 the side of the road became the property of Charles S. Little, first doctor at the Laconia State School. Dr. Little, on January 15, 1920, sold the farm back to Earl Flanders, son of Seth, who remodeled the buildings and moved back to his childhood home.

Failing health compelled Mr. Flanders to sell the real estate, and on May 29, 1945, the place became the property of Lois and Mildred DeLucca, who came from New Jersey to New Hampshire, to engage in farming. After looking at many places they decided the Flanders place was the only one they liked, and the one they wanted.

They have two sons, Roland, who married Christine Pearson, and Robert P., who lives at home.

Roland and Christine DeLucca have three sons, Roland H., Jr., Edward Charles, and Harold Peter.

### Robert W. Farnham



The Crockett School House. Not known when built. Last year to be used as school 1922-23. Sold by City October 5, 1929 to Earle Flanders. Now property of Robert W. Farnam.

As we proceed up the hill we come to the Crockett School House on the corner of the Kimball Road, so-called, which leads over to the home of Gail Watson, formerly of Levi Kimball, who with his wife Ellen



(Atwood) Kimball, and daughter Grace, lived here for many years. This road was laid out September 8, 1774.

On the right-hand corner is a cemetery, where is buried Gordon Lawrence, who died May 7, 1812, and his wife, Mary (Prescott) Lawrence, who died September 1, 1799. Gordon Lawrence served as a private in Col. Ebenezer Smith's company, raised for the relief of Ticonderoga, 1777. There are no other burials in this yard with headstones, but there may be other graves unmarked.

Directly across the road is the Mead yard, where is buried Capt. John Mead, who saw service at Saratoga. Stephen Mead is also buried here. We do not know of his war record, if any. As he was born in 1776 and died September 6, 1804, he could not have been in either the Revolution or the War of 1812. This yard has been kept in good condition by the late Arthur Mead of Meredith. The city now cuts the grass in these rural yards once a year.

The old school house is on the other corner. You would never know it, for it has been converted into an attractive residence, now owned by Robert W. Farnham and Dorothea M. Farnham. They bought from Hector E. and Yvonne Morin April 23, 1955. The Morins bought of Leslie F. and Mary E. Jenks on April 9, 1951. The Jenks bought of Priscilla Howland on March 23, 1946. She had bought of Earl Flanders. The city of Laconia sold the school house at public auction on October 5, 1929, to Earl Flanders, who was city clerk at the time. He owned land on two sides, north and east, and the public roads are on the other two sides.

Just when the school was built is somewhat of a question, but my mother attended school there about 1870, so it would seem that the building was erected some time before the deed to the town was recorded. Frank J. Robinson and wife, Lydia, sold to the town of Laconia September 20, 1873, School District No. 3. It has always been known as the Crockett School.

Here I learned my ABC's. It seems only yesterday that I started out, lunch pail in hand, and in reality it was sixty-six years ago. I had some fine teachers, but especially wish to pay tribute to Mrs. Olive E. (Calley) Swain. Not a day passes but I realize how much I owe to her for my early education.

In 1788 a town meeting was held at the house of Mr. George Leighton. They voted to have some school houses built in said town, Mr. Chase Robinson, Capt. John Kimball, Mr. Reuben Morgan, Ensign Robert Bryant, Lt. Leighton, Ebenezer Dow, Lt. William Davis, David Boynton, Robert Smith, John Roberts, Gideon Robinson, and John Blake being a committee to see how many public school houses shall be built and report

to the meeting where said schools should be set. The committee reported that one be near Jonathan Smith's, one near the pound, one near John Wadleigh's, one near Ensign Pike's house, one near the mouth of the road that leads to John Robert's house in the third division. Whereupon the town voted that each district build a school house.

The school near Jonathan Smith's (County Farm Road) was built. The one near the pound was built. The pound at that time being at the corner of the Weeks and Province Roads, it may be this was located on James Crockett's land, formerly the Mead land. The one near John Wadleigh's was built, and the one at Pike's corner. Many of the old folks remember this school house. The one on the Neck Road, I will refer to the writer of the history of that part of town.

The school house near John Wadleigh's was located about half way down the hill. My father attended school there in 1856. Another school was partly built near the old town cemetery, but was never finished and finally was torn down. I can remember it quite well.

### **The Old District School**

No more the school house by the road  
Defies the wind and rain and snow;  
No more it stands where once it sowed  
The seeds of learning long ago.

No more on winter's bleakest day,  
Its welcome warms some frost-chilled hand;  
No more, when spring smiles fair and gay,  
It chains a restless, listless band.

The sun of morning saw them come.  
The moon of evening saw them go;  
From home to school, from school to home,  
Like tides of ocean, to and fro.

Midst sleepy silence wake the sounds  
Of busy voices from within,  
And on its weedy trodden grounds  
At nooning rose a merry din.

When summer solstice comes again,  
The school house slept forsaken there.  
It's passed, the dog star's sultry reign;  
Our harvest moon shown bright and fair.

Alas, at the school life winged away,  
That aged school house died at last,  
But all forlorn awhile it lay,  
A relic of the fading past.



Where children's children learned to spell,  
And fathers came to read and write,  
The scythe of time unsparing fell  
And swept the school house from man's sight.

No more that school house stands, no more  
Beside the road, beside the hill;  
Its work is done, its day is o'er,  
Yet memory clings around it still.

Gail B. Watson

From the earliest record of this place we find Joseph Fifield sold land to Joseph Folsom, who deeded to Stephen Mead one hundred thirty acres, lot 9, fourth range, first division, April 30, 1801. Deborah Mead, widow of Stephen, received a deed from her daughter, Melinda, single, eighteen acres, being her share of the state of her father, April 12, 1822. Deborah sold December 26, 1817, to Ebenezer Swain fifty acres. Ebenezer and wife, Abigail, sold to Richard Davis on April 3, 1843. Richard sold to Plummer M. Davis September 25, 1845.

Title to the place then passed to Alvah T. Swain December 21, 1846, fifty acres. He sold to Manning W. Blaisdell on April 18, 1864. Benjamin N. Sanborn was the owner March 5, 1877. He sold to Simeon Bean and James A. Ellis. They in turn sold to Hannah Pickering on April 1, 1878. Jacob Sanborn and Lewis Perley bought the place the 28th of February 1880. Jacob sold a part March 26, 1881, to Levi J. Kimball, who lived there until after the death of Mrs. Kimball, the former Ellen Atwood, thirty-four years.

The barn which stood on this farm had been sold to J. F. Crockett and moved to his farm, now the Laconia State School, and used as a horse barn until it was burned a few years ago.

On November 27, 1915, Levi Kimball sold nine acres and buildings to John Keegan. A part of the farm had been sold to William Severance and a part to Everett Hadley.

The next owner was Francis J. O'Connell, June 18, 1918. Then Earl Flanders bought the place. The next owner was Gordon H. and Mildred W. West, October 27, 1945. They lived there two years, then sold to Kenneth H. and Edna G. Williams, October 24, 1947. The present owners are Gail B. and Marjorie W. Watson, who bought January 22, 1952. They are the nineteenth parties to own the place.

The road was laid out from the Province Road to Abraham Folsom's field, ninth lot, fourth range, first division, on the southeast side of the lot numbered three in the fifth range, and is three rods wide



and eighty rods in length. Ebenezer Smith, Nathaniel Robinson, and William Mead were selectmen. Dated September 8, 1774.

### **The John Mead Cellar Hole**

A little farther up the road on the same side as the Mead Cemetery there is an old well and cellar hole, now nearly filled with all kinds of waste and rubbish. This is the site of the John Mead home. He was one of three sons of William, the first settler.

John went to war and was at West Point in 1780, Capt. Webster's company, time of entry July 5, 1780, discharged October 24th, time in service three months and twenty days, miles travelled 270, total wage fifty-eight pounds six shillings.

He was living in Meredith in 1790 and had a family of five boys and two girls. He is buried in the Mead yard just referred to and has a government marker.

John Mead of Holland, Orleans County, Vermont, deeded land in Meredith to William Mead January 28, 1832.

It is possible the family scattered after the death of John, Sr. I find no other record of service or any information whatever of this family.

### **Harold Page (William Mead Place)**

We have now reached the top of the first hill. The big lilac bushes on our right in front of the house are very beautiful each spring as the seasons come and go. We can thank a little girl by the name of Ellen Atwood (the late Mrs. Levi Kimball), who set the shrubs just outside her bedroom windows in the old one-story house that faced the south, with the end towards the road. She was born in 1843, and so these bushes have been here for nearly one hundred years.

This is the site of the William Mead home, one of the first settlers of Meredith. On September 29, 1766, he had a house built and six acres of land cleared. He had married and had a family of three sons and seven daughters. The boys were William, John, and Stephen.

On December 10, 1801, John deeded one-half of lot three, fifth range, first division, to his brother Stephen. The other son, William, went over to Meredith Neck and settled there.

On November 4, 1779, a small gathering of settlers met at the house of William Mead and formed themselves into a church, and at the next meeting held August 3, 1780, they adopted the Calvinistic articles of faith.



Stephen Mead deeded the farm to John S. Weeks October 5, 1854, one hundred sixty acres of land. Because the old house was broken into by tramps who travelled the roads after the close of the war, the old house was torn down and the barn moved over to the Weeks place and became part of the new barn over there about the year 1870.

The place then passed from John S. Weeks to his son, J. Frank Weeks, then to his daughter, Grace E. Blaisdell. She died in 1933, leaving the place to her son, who had built the present house in 1928.

Carl F. Blaisdell sold the place to Harold and Hazel Page, May 24, 1945, seventeen acres of land. Mr. and Mrs. Page have added to the original place, making a very attractive home of Colonial interior.

### Carl F. Blaisdell

And now we will go over to the place I call home. "How dear to my heart are the scenes of my childhood, when fond recollection presents them to view."

One fond recollection of my childhood is as follows. If it had not been for a pair of new pants I would not be here to tell you about this place or the accident that happened to me nearly seventy years ago. At that time my folks bought some articles of clothing and household necessities of a man by the name of Riley, who drove through the country calling at farm houses, and my folks bought of him almost every time he came.

The morning of the tragedy (?) he had been at our house, and as a result of that call I had a new pair of pants. Mother thought I ought to save them for best, but Father said I could put them on and wear them for a while. About the middle of the forenoon my cousin and I—he was four years older than I—got up on the woodshed roof. He had rubber soled shoes on but I did not. Hardly had I reached the ridgepole when down I went and rolled over an over to the edge of the roof. Next to this shed there was a carriage house with a space of about four feet between. There was only one way to get into this alley, and the door was directly behind another which swung back against it, so any stranger would not know how to get into this place. These buildings sat on a ledge, and it was a good ten feet from the eaves of the building down to the ledge. As I rolled down the edge of the roof somehow my new pants caught on an iron pin that held the water spout. The pants ripped, but did not let go. I yelled at the top of my voice. My cousin ran to the house and told my aunt and my mother. A lady working for my mother, hearing my screams, ran to the shed, but not knowing about the door did not know how to get to me. After much excitement they finally got the door open, and there was I dangling high above their heads, no way to reach me.



My aunt was sure my pants would let go before a ladder could be procured. My mother sent my cousin to find my father, and they in the meantime gathered whatever was at hand, sofa pillows, part of an old mattress, and blankets and placed them on the ledge under me to break the fall when I came down. They also told me not to move and to stop yelling. My father came after what seemed to me hours, got a tall step-ladder, and then could just reach me.

I did not get punished for going on the roof, but my aunt gave my cousin a sound talking to, for he was older than I and went on the roof first. My pants saved me from serious injury, but needless to say were completely ruined.

We had comedy as well as tragedy at the old home, as when my Uncle Charlie sat in the fly paper with his white duck pants on. Needless to say it was some job to get him separated from his entanglement. Do you remember tanglefoot flypaper? That was the name. However it was not his feet that got entangled.

Then there was the night the gypsies camped in our triangle field. We children did not sleep all night because of fear of them. In the morning a woman came to the house and wanted to tell our fortunes for some milk. We did not have our palms read, but my father did give her some milk for her baby. We children had been told to come to the house and hide if we saw gypsies coming up the road. The reason for our fear was that great-uncle Thomas's daughter, Mary Ann, was stolen by the gypsies, and Grandfather had to go to New York and get her after many months of searching by the authorities.

I can just remember the day when there was a water spout on Lake Winnepesaukee. We all stood in front of the house and got a good view of it, a sight never to forget. There was a terrific wind storm that passed over the lake region.

Then there was the night of August 31, 1894 when the steamer The Eagle went on the rocks at the upper end of the big island in Lake Paugus. It was rather a warm night, and we had the doors and windows open. It was about nine thirty in the evening, we children had retired, when the cry "Help, help" came through the darkness. We had no way of knowing what had happened as there were no telephones, and it was some time before we found out. The boat was over-loaded with people that had been to the Veterans' Reunion at the Weirs and were going to Lakeport. There were no electric cars in those days and no boulevard had been built along the shore of the lake, and the horses and carriages had to use the White Oaks Road. The train schedule did not provide transportation south after early evening, so a large number were carried by boats. I do not think there was any loss of life, and all were taken off



safely. Only the boat was damaged.

How well I remember the first automobile that went by our house. I guess we had read in the papers about it, for our folks seemed to know it was to go by. It was a Stanley Steamer and looked very much like the driving buggies that were in vogue at that time. We children heard it coming down the hill, and we ran into the house and told the folks and all rushed out to see the thing go by. It was on the morning of August 17, 1899, that Dr. W. E. Hicks and wife of Lowell, Massachusetts, passed through Laconia on their way home from a trip up to the mountains. I think there was a trial trip up Mt. Washington. The thing steered by a handle, and steam came out the back. It chug-chugged up the grade by the house. They waved to us as they passed by and soon disappeared down the road. My father was having a nap, as was his custom in the middle of the day. I well remember how provoked he was that my mother had not called him to see the "horseless carriage".

I could go on relating these childhood experiences, but time and space forbid.



For five generations this house has been in the Weeks Family. Original settler Reuben Marston who had a house built September 29, 1766 as per recorded at Exeter. Phineas Weeks bought the place in 1815 and it has remained in the family up to present owner Carl F. Blaisdell his great-great grandson. Picture taken about 1859.



The Weeks Road was laid out March 1, 1770, and the original lot line runs down the center of the road, separating the third and fourth lots in the fifth range. The southerly half of the fourth lot had been drawn to Josiah Sanborn, who was one of the original proprietors of Meredith. Reuben Marston, Jr. settled for Josiah Sanborn, and was here on September 29, 1766, "house built, six acres fell, and three clear". He granted December 24, 1777, Reuben Marston, Sr., the southerly half of lot four, fifty acres. (See Annals and Genealogies of Meredith by Mary E. Neal Hannaford.)

Marston sold to John Bickford, and when he did so he excepted "the privilege reserved to the widow, Deborah Mead, to make cider which she annually makes at the cider mill which belongs to said farm."

John Bickford sold to Ebenezer Weeks. Ebenezer and his brother Phineas had bought land above the Weirs, and as Reuben Marston, Jr. went to Canada in 1803, I have always understood that Phineas occupied the place that year. Phineas was my great-great-grandfather. He married Mercy Page, and they had Ebenezer, Phineas, Abram, John S., Sarah, Thomas and George. George died a young man. The rest of the family married and established homes in Massachusetts and New York.

John S., my great-grandfather, went to Boston when fourteen years of age, his sole possessions in a handkerchief. He walked to his uncle Ebenezer's home and went to work in a brick yard and at carpenter work. Sundays he would go over to Noddle's Island, now East Boston, and lie under the apple trees in a cow pasture, because he said it made him feel at home. He later bought a fish and lobster business and became quite an extensive land-owner.

He never lost his love for New Hampshire, always returning to his old home when opportunity offered. After his father died and the estate was settled he bought out his brothers' and sister Sarah, who had married Alvah Swain and had made their home at the farm.

John Swasey Weeks married Lydia Ann Flanders of New Hampton, and they had two children, Elizabeth who died in infancy, and John Francis, who was born March 1, 1834. His mother died October 19, 1841, and he was sent to the old farm to be brought up by his Aunt Sarah. Later he became associated with his father in the fish business in East Boston.

He married Sarah Elizabeth Smith, daughter of Charles Smith and his wife Annis, who was a daughter of "Squire" John Smith. Sarah Elizabeth and J. Frank (as he was called) were the parents of a daughter, Mary Isabel, born February 24, 1857, and a son, John Herbert, born June 1st, 1859.



His wife, Sarah Elizabeth (Smith) Weeks, died June 21, 1859, and on January 2, 1862, he married Mary Richardson Strate of Enfield, and my mother, Grace Evelyn, was born August 13, 1863, on Decator Street, East Boston.

For many years my grandfather and mother made the trip from East Boston to the old farm at Laconia every spring and fall, driving each way with horse and carriage. They stopped the first night in Derry, New Hampshire, and the second in Loudon. She told me of many experiences she had making those trips, and how delighted she was when they were able to get the first view of the farm from Prescott Hill.

My mother and father, Frank Napoleon Blaisdell, son of David and Eliza (Gilman) Blaisdell, were married April 29, 1886, and the writer made his entry into this world August 31, 1887.

My father and mother came to the Weeks farm in April 1891. I well remember the mud as we moved from the Wentworth place (now part of the State School property). It seemed as if it was all "old Lindy" the horse was able to do to pull the wagon load of trunks and boxes. My mother rode on the wagon seat, but Father and I walked much of the way. From that day to this it has been my home.

At the death of my grandfather in 1908 my mother bought her brother's and sister's share in the place. Through five generations the old farm has been cherished and loved.

The house has been changed and repaired five times according to family records which were found in the base of the chimney the last time it was rebuilt in 1913. I had the records replaced in the box, with copies of the local papers, some small coins, and booklets which may be of interest to someone some future date.

Pictures of the place were made about the year 1855 after extensive alterations were made, and again in August 1875 when the old barn was torn down and the barn from the Mead place was moved over and built onto the front, making it ninety-nine feet long. This barn burned on the night of March 1, 1941. In 1890 the house was raised and a new brick foundation put under the entire structure. There are twelve finished rooms in this place besides long halls, pantries and baths. In the north bedroom upstairs can be seen the depression in the floor which was caused by a fire which was set by Great-great-uncle Ben Page. When asked on his death-bed if he was afraid to die, he replied, "No, no more than I was to be born."

Such is the story of an old home. "Soon a stranger's foot will have crossed the sill."



## Priest Folsom's Church

As we begin to climb the last hill before reaching the Parade, on the right side of the road in the corner of John Smith's pasture is the foundation of the old Elder Folsom church. These foundations show that the old building must have been about thirty by forty feet. It is said that Elder Folsom did most of the work on it himself.

On August 21, 1780, there were nineteen males and eight females added to the membership, which had been organized as a society on November 4, 1779, at the house of William Mead.

The first officers were John Gilman, clerk; Nicholas Folsom and Abram Swain, elders; Jonathan Edgerly and Brother Joshua Crockett, deacons. John Mead made the ordination prayer, and John Kimball and Gideon Robinson assisted at the laying on of hands.

In 1782 they voted to set apart Nicholas Folsom to the work of the Christian ministry. On the second Wednesday (September 8th) a delegation of ministers and delegates from Brentwood, Madborough, Gilmanton and Sandwich met and ordained Mr. Folsom. The sermon was preached by Elder Hooper of Brentwood. That year an effort was made to make Elder Folsom the town minister, but the town voted not to receive him. There were so many people present at his ordination that the gathering moved across the road, and Elder Folsom and those taking part stood on a large rock during the service of ordination. (The rock which was photographed a few years ago up near the Charles Sanborn barn could not have been the one mentioned in the records, as the Sanborn buildings were not there at that time.) Great-aunt Phoebe, as we called her — she being Phoebe Sanborn — was born on this farm and told me about the ordination, but she did not point out the very rock. No one now knows which it was, but I am sure it was across from the old church.

When I was a boy the Sanborn family cemetery was also located here, and for many years there was one little marble stone way over at the northwest corner. We children used to go and read the lettering. Then Scott Wentworth, who was sexton at the Bayside Cemetery, came and took it away. Others who had been buried there had previously been removed to Union Cemetery down-town.

Folsom continued to preach until near the close of the eighteenth century, half of the time in Meredith, and half the time in Sanbornton.

The D. A. R. Book stated that this old building was burned by a Mrs. Morgan who lived the next house on the left. How could this be so if the Belknap County Records are true, which say that the old Moulton house at the head of the Parade was made of boards and timbers of this church. (See Belknap County Records, Book 13, Page 451..) These



statements contradict each other, and one has to be wrong. It is possible that there might have been two buildings.

The Society later built a church up at the old Union School House at the town line. It was called "the old Daygun". About 1840 or later this church was torn down and moved to Lakeport, becoming the property of the Advent Society, and was located at the corner of Belvidere and School Streets. It was consumed in the great fire of May 25th, 1903.

The following persons were members of this church: Abram Swain, John Mead, Stephen Mead, Ebenezer Pitman, Ebenezer Pitman, Jr., Elias Swain, Edward Fox, Elisha Piper, Daniel Piper, Daniel Smith 3rd, Samuel Edgerly, Jesse Plummer, Moses Plummer, Amos Plummer, Nathan Plummer, Taylor Pearson, Levi Leavitt, Joseph Pearson, Joshua Woodman, James Sanborn, Jesse Plummer, Jr., Jethro Pearson, Nathaniel Plummer, Joseph Goss, William Randlett, Enoch Gordon, James Gordon, Levi Randlett, Amos Leavitt, John Robinson, Nathaniel Folsom, Thomas Dolloff, Joshua Moses, Joseph Moses, Joshua Crockett, Thomas Crosby, David Boynton, Jr., Jeremiah Pike, John Swain, Sam Sibley, William Pike, Benjamin Pease, Timothy Weymouth, Timothy Morrill, Benjamin Crosby, James Pease, Bradstreet Wiggin, John McDaniel, Hezekiah Swain, David Lawrence, Stephen Farrar, Job Judkins, Jonathan Kelley, Gordon Lawrence, Abraham Drake. The above list of members applied for incorporation papers to the Senate and House of Representatives at Concord June 17, 1797.

The following list of persons, inhabitants of Meredith, were not members of the Baptist Society, but had no objection to the request: Ebenezer Smith, Daniel Smith, Isaac Farrar, Robert Bryant, Ebenezer Weeks, Reuben Morgan, James Nichols, John Cate, Jonathan Page, Elias Philbrick, John Perkins, Daniel Colby.

These lists are interesting for they show who was living in town at the beginning of the nineteenth century.

### **The Old Morgan Cellar Hole**

Just beyond the location of the old First Baptist Church on the other side of the road there was until recent years an old cellar hole. No one could tell me anything about it, but after a careful examination of the records, I believe it must have been the old Morgan home, where the people went to warm themselves between the long services held in the morning and in the afternoon.

Benjamin Nelle deeded to Thomas Frohock January 6, 1777, lot 4, fifth range. Two years later Thomas Frohock sold Zebulon Neal of Newmarket lot 4, fifth range, first division, except fifty acres off the



south side owned by Reuben Marston, Jr., being the same as he purchased of Benjamin Nelle on January 6, 1777.

Zebulon Neal of Exeter sold to Jeremiah Smith a parcel of land, sixty acres, lot 4, fifth range, first division, "excepting fifty acres on the south side that Reuben Marston, Jr. owns, and eighty-nine square rods on the northerly corner which I have conveyed to one Reuben Morgan," October 10, 1781.

On April 17, 1777, John Pike sold Reuben Morgan ninety-four and three fourths acres, "four and three quarters acres of the original right of Benjamin Norris, and part I bought of Joshua Folsom, lot 5, fifth range, first division, ninety-four and three quarters acres."

Reuben Morgan was a Revolutionary soldier, born in 1748. He was receiving a pension in 1840 when he was ninety-two years old. His child, Mary H., died at the age of twelve years, ten months, fifteen days, and his son, Reuben, died February 12, 1811, aged two years, two months and nineteen days.

On August 13, 1833, Mr. Morgan evidently sold part of his farm to Asa D. Peabody, forty acres with buildings. This is the old cellar hole first mentioned.

In 1828 Mr. Morgan sold forty acres to William Farrar. In 1835, September 28th, Hugh Blaisdell sold forty acres to Nathaniel Sanborn, who had purchased the other part of the farm. The buildings probably were torn down soon after.

### **The Sanborn Colony, Laconia State School (Charles Sanborn Place)**

This place, now the property of the State of New Hampshire, has an interesting history. In the year 1771, April the 17th, John Pike sold to Reuben Morgan ninety-four and three fourths acres and another piece of four and three fourths acres, the original right of Benjamin Morris and "part of lot which I bought of John Folsom."

On January 6, 1777, Benjamin Nelle sold to Thomas Frohock lot 4, fifth range, first division, and on November the 20th 1779, Thomas Frohock sold to Zebulon Neal lot 4, fifth range, first division, excepting fifty acres off the south side of the lot "I purchased of Benjamin Nelle."

Zebulon sold Jeremiah Smith a parcel of land of sixty acres, October 10, 1781. Town meetings were held in this house in 1783.

On December 30, 1828, the farm was divided, and forty acres was sold to William Farrar, and on August 13th 1833 Asa Peabody bought





The Nathaniel Sanborn place was built about 1825. It later was the home of his son Charles who sold to Jacob Sanborn (no relation) who gave the property to the State of New Hampshire.

of Reuben and Mary Morgan forty acres with the buildings.

On September 28, 1835, Hugh and Mary Blaisdell sold to Nathaniel Sanborn of Chemung sixty acres, with buildings, part of fifth lot in the fifth range. The title is not clearly traceable at this point. Hugh Blaisdell had also purchased of Asa Peabody forty acres on September 28, 1833, the remainder of the farm and the old Morgan house.

Nathaniel Sanborn, born in Chemung in 1807, married Sarah Roberts, daughter of Lieutenant Joseph. Old folks told me that when Nathaniel built the barn that was moved when this property was acquired by the State, he was undecided as to whether he ought to locate it northeast of the house because of the fact that the rangeway between the fourth and fifth lots went right through the barn doors. However he built it where it stood many, many years.

Charles F. Sanborn, son of Nathaniel, married Clara Gray, daughter of Daniel. They had three children, Frank N., Ella, and Herbert Nathaniel. Herbert Nathaniel was born in 1862 and married in 1883 Susie E. Noyes, and they had Ernest, born in 1884, Charlotte, born in 1888, and Clarence, born in 1894.



Charles F. Sanborn sold February 25, 1909, sixty acres, and on November 5th, 1914, the remaining part of the farm with the buildings, to Jacob Sanborn (no relation, but life-long friends.)

Jacob gave the property to the State, together with many other parcels of real estate, and it is now the Sanborn Colony of the Laconia State School.

The fine old panelling in the front room was saved when the building was modernized under the direction of Dr. Baker, who was Superintendent of the school at that time.

### **Haven Marston (John Smith Place)**

When John Rice Smith divided his farm April 28th, 1843, the southern part he gave to his son John, who was born in 1797 and died in 1897. He built the house now owned by Haven Marston.



John Smith place was built 1808, when John Rice Smith his father divided his farm. Rhoda Smith, daughter of John, lived here many years with sister and brothers. Place was sold to Joseph Gilman and from him it became property of Haven Marston who has recently sold.

John married Rhoda Davis. She was born in 1794 and died in 1876. Their children were Ebenezer Locke, Jeremiah Morrill, Mary Ann, Rhoda,



and Martha. Martha was born in 1838.

Rhoda Smith never married, and her father gave her the farm on January 21, 1871. During the latter part of her life her sister, Mrs. Joseph Corson, and brother Morrill lived with her. I well remember being sent up to this place to purchase small round pats of the nice dairy butter which these sisters made.

Upon Rhoda's death the farm was sold in 1907 to Julia A. Eaton, her husband, Daniel Eaton, also being the administrator of Rhoda's estate.

Julia Eaton in 1909 sold the place to Joseph L. Gilman, a retired mail carrier of Somerville, Massachusetts. He made extensive repairs to the place and made it his home.

Mrs. Gilman died, and his niece, Mrs. Carrie (Marston) Prescott, came to care for her uncle. Upon his death the place passed to Mrs. Prescott, who gave it to her brother, Leon Marston. Upon his death the place passed to his son Haven.

A most beautiful view of lake and mountains is to be had from the knoll back of the buildings.

### **The David Carroll Place (Jacob Smith Place)**

Jeremiah Smith was the brother of Honorable Ebenezer, and a son of Daniel and his second wife, Deborah Wilcomb. Jeremiah was born in 1733 in Exeter, New Hampshire, and he married Hannah Locke and came to Meredith (New Salem) in 1768.

He served in the Revolutionary War at Ticonderoga July 7th, 1777. He died at Meredith in 1794, leaving a son, John Rice Smith, and three daughters, Anna, Nancy, and Hannah.

In 1774 Jeremiah was deeded by his brother Ebenezer the original right of James Gibson, original grantee, and on October 10, 1781, he bought fifty acres, part of lot 4, range 5, first division, the south side of the lot belonging to Reuben Marston.

In 1794 the homestead passed to the son, John Rice, and his wife Rhoda (Blaisdell) Smith. They were the parents of two boys and three girls, Jacob, John, Hannah, Nancy, and Betsey.

The farm was divided by John Rice between Jacob and John. Jacob retained the homestead, while John built the new house farther down the road, now the property of Haven Marston. Built about 1808.

At the outbreak of the Revolutionary War British soldiers were sent out through the country to take away all the arms the people had





Jeremiah Smith had 15 acres of land and frame house built as reported at Exeter November 15, 1770. Place remained in family for five generations. The last was Mrs. Ellen Tilton, who died February 6, 1947. David Carroll became the owner and recently sold to Gardner G. Greene.

excepting one gun to each house for protection against wild animals. When the came they hardly ever found more than one gun, although there might be three or four hidden away. People could not be very exact in telling the truth at such times. Three of these soldiers came to the house of John Rice Smith on the Parade, who owned three guns. His wife, a young woman, seeing them a considerable distance away coming up the hill path, seized two of the guns standing in the corner of the room, quickly placed them between the upper and under feather ticks on the bed in the corner of the room, and lay down upon them, pretending to be sick. The soldiers dismounted and came in, looked all about, and inquired if there were more than one gun in the house. Mrs. Smith said faintly "No, there are no more, we have only one", pointing to the one over the fireplace, where a gun was always left for the ladies in those times. Seeing it they said "All right" and went out, leaving her to laugh at the little game she had played on them, as they departed down the hill. These guns are still in the Smith and Neal families of Laconia and Sanbornton.



Jacob Smith was born May 1804, and died November 29, 1889. He married in 1831 Louisa Robinson, daughter of Ebenezer and Betsey (Shaw) Robinson, and lived all his life on the Parade. They were the parents of three daughters, Susan, Ellen, and Sarah.

Mrs. Louisa Smith outlived her daughters, and Susan, who had married Moses Nash, had died leaving one daughter, Ellen, named for her aunt. Grandmother Smith deeded the place to her grand-daughter, who had married John B. Corliss. She later married Arthur A. Tilton, who carried on the farm until his death.

Mrs. Tilton died Feb. 6, 1947, and her estate was settled by Albert W. Head, who sold the place to David B. and Elizabeth Carroll, who thoroughly modernized the place and now make it their home.

### **The Old Training Field**

We now come to the Parade. The field just above the Smith house was the usual place for holding drills or training on "muster" days. This is the height of the land. From the lake one sights the three poplars by the house. Since this was written the trees have gone down before the winter winds and storms.

After the War of 1812 every male citizen of military age, within a radius of twenty miles, was required to undergo military training at stated periods.

We wish we had accurate records of those gatherings which were held for over forty years. I do know that the name of the company was Winnepisiogee Guards and my grandfather was captain. His old coat of blue with brass buttons for years hung upon a nail in the attic at the old house at the head of the Parade.

An old record of the Parade says besides the taverns there were four blacksmith shops, three shoe shops, two stores, meeting house, town hall, and school house, with dwellings enough for a small multitude. I can locate some of these buildings, but not all. The Parade was intended to be the center of the town.

These trainings, or musters as they were called, were gay and lively affairs. On training days crowds of people began arriving from all the surrounding country. The day assumed that of Old Home Day of our modern times. Women and children engaged in all sorts of entertainments. Vendors of all sorts of things came early on the scene, selling their wares, such as needles, pins, and ribbons. The stores did a great business besides selling refreshments of all kinds, including gingerbread and old cider. Plenty of Indian rum flowed freely, and by mid-morning its effects were quite noticeable on the training field. As the day pro-



gressed it became necessary to escort some of men to the Pound located up the road a short distance, so they could cool off. By three they began to depart for home. It was a great day for all. Until the year 1845 these gatherings were held. Then the company disbanded, and the uniforms were laid away to be finally forgotten.

### **The Old Weirs Road and the Swasey Cellar**

We will now go down the old Weirs Road, or the "shad path" as it was called. The road was laid out March 1st, 1770, five hundred seventy-six rods. Over this road went the first settlers of the Parade to the Weirs to get the shad in the channel. Elder Folsom told them to go when he was preaching at the old church, saying "The shad will do you more good than I can."

There were two settlers who located just down the hill. There were others at the cove or Gordonville, as it was called, but this locality has been recorded in a booklet published by the late Edgar Harland Wilcomb. The Swasey cellar is on the north side of the road, and the Weymouth on the south side. Both of these houses have been gone for years.

The record states that Ebenezer Swasey was deeded the lot by Caleb Robinson "original right of the proprietors that belonged to my honorable father, Ephraim Robinson (deceased)" in 1770. In 1777 Ebenezer deeded to his son No. 7, first division, third range, one hundred acres.

On October 4, 1784, John Swasey sold to George Leighton, and in 1792 Leighton sold about seventy acres "part of my homestead farm called the Swasey farm, northerly side of the Weirs Road, (so called)" to John Farrar.

Since then the property has come down to Mr. Rice, who now owns the Farrar (Calley) farm.

### **The Timothy Weymouth Orchard**

On the south side of the Hilliard Road once stood the cabin of Timothy Weymouth and the Weymouth Orchard, of which not a vista remains. The first mention of his being in town was 1791, when he was appointed as one of the committee to see where the school houses should be erected.

Jonathan Robinson of Epping sold to Timothy Weymouth one-half of the one hundred acre lot drawn to the original right of Tilton Lawrence, Number 8, first division, third range, westerly side of said lot, January 10, 1783. Timothy Weymouth also became the owner of about



thirty acres, "being the part of my homestead on the south side of the Weare road adjoined the homestead farm of said Weymouth, land I purchased of John Swasey" October 27, 1792.

Just the location of the house or cemetery where the members of his family are buried, is not known, but the late Frank Calley told me that he knew where it was located and would show me, but he never did.

It seems that a distemper hit this household and several of the large family died. In 1813 there was a terrible distemper of spotted fever, no doubt typhus, that swept through this part of the state, whole families being afflicted. Such was the fate of the Weymouths. Even a row of field stones marking their resting places cannot now be found. What became of the survivors we do not know, but Timothy of Nashehear, County of Orange, Vermont, deeded certain lands to John Rice Smith, located in Meredith, containing seventy-five acres, be it more or less, the same being one-half of lot 8, first division, and the third range, and also all that part of lot No. 7 in said range that lies southeasterly of the Weare Road that leads from Isaac Farrar's to the Weirs, October 19, 1805. This is now part of the farm of David Carroll.

### **Lyman Rice (Farrar Tavern)**

Beyond the "shad path" stands the old Farrar Tavern, so-called. The earliest record we find is a reference to it in deed of Ebenezer Smith to his brother, Jeremiah Smith, which says "bounded on the north by land which I this day deeded to Mary Farrar". This lot was owned by Reuben Marston according to the report of 1770. He, however, went to Marston Hill December 24, 1777. He was the original grantee of lot 7, range 4, first division. He had a frame house and log barn built in 1803. The old cellar hole was filled many years ago but the well was there after 1868, as Oliva Eva (Calley) Swain, my school-teacher, was born there on the farm and told me that her mother was afraid the children might fall into this well when at play, but no trace of it is to be found today.

In the year 1803 Ebenezer Smith deeded to Isaac Farrar (fifty acres, north side of Weare Road and east side of the Province Road, "on which said Farrar now lives and improved for a number of years," also westerly side of the Province Road, land deeded to Mary Farrar, also sixteen acres not included in the former deed, June 4, 1831.

Stephen Farrar sold to Isaac "my homestead farm, excepting four acres deeded my son Jacob, seventy acres, also meaning to convey one-half of seventy acres adjoining my farm, which George Leighton deeded to Isaac Jonathan Farrar," October 21, 1792.



Capt. Stephen Farrar, born in 1766, died in 1849. His wife was Sarah, born in 1773 and died in 1854. They were the parents of Isaac, who was born in 1806 and died in 1858. He married Hannah Blaisdell, who after the death of her husband, sold the farm and went to Portsmouth, Ohio. There were five children, four girls and a boy. Eliza married a Trickey, Hannah married a Bennett, Susan married a Woodburn, Laura Electa Clentina married a Nealy, and the boy, Charles A., married Olive, who after the death of Charles married John Elwell of Caledonia County, Vermont, who deeded the rights of Charles, September 6, 1864, to Lowell C. Calley, one-fifth of the farm. The other heirs sold four-fifths, their share, to John Blaisdell and Jacob Smith, who then sold on April 26, 1864, their holdings to Francis M. and Lowell C. Calley. Francis M. on July 2nd, 1866 sold his one-half part to Lowell.



Farrar Tavern was built before 1782 as he was Selectman that year. He kept the Tavern for many years. It was later Cawley Farm and now the home of Lyman Rice.

Frank L. Calley, Executor of the Estate of Lowell C. Calley, on July 26, 1901, deeded the place to Frank L. and Olive C. (widow). Mrs. Calley died February 16, 1913, leaving her part of the farm to her son, Frank L. On July 26, 1937, he sold to his sister, Olive E. Swain.

In 1945 she sold the old home to Wade Shepard of Cincinnati, Ohio, who after starting extensive alterations and improvements, sold on



October 12, 1948, to Lyman Rice of Meredith, who with Mrs. Rice and child now make it their home.

There was published at one time a story about a secret room in this house, used as a part of the "underground railway", but Mr. Calley made the statement that he had lived in the house fifty years and he knew of no such room. A lot of such stories have been handed out for popular consumption, but are utterly unfounded in fact.

There is no doubt that this was an old tavern for many years when stage coaches went over the Parade before the advent of the railroad in 1849.

**Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Dolloff**  
**(Jacob Farrar Place)**

The next house on the left is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dolloff and family. This place has changed ownership nineteen times during the years and has been the home of many who rented the place of different owners.

This farm is part of the lot deeded to Mary Farrar in 1774. This deed has not been found, but is mentioned in deed of the abutting owner, Jeremiah Smith.

On January 1, 1800, Isaac Farrar deeded the farm to "my son, Stephen", and on November 28th, 1826 he deeded the land to his son Jacob, "lot of land beginning at the main road by Isaac Currier's blacksmith shop, with buildings."

In 1844 the place passed to William, and four years later, 1848, "land and buildings on Parade" passed to Isaac, grandson of Isaac. April 28, 1848, George W. Stevens, Esq. and wife, Sarah Ann Davenport, and Hannah D. Mooney, wife of Ebenezer, sold to Isaac Farrar a piece of land containing five acres, which became a part of the lot.

James Filgate bought the place March 6, 1854, "land and buildings on westerly side of road" and two other parcels twenty-one rods on the highway.

James Filgate sold the place October 23, 1865, to Nathan Collins, "west side of the road". The place passed to his son, John S. Collins, who sold to Benjamin F. Sanborn "twelve acres" April 11, 1883.

My father, Frank Blaisdell, and his brother Charles, bought of Mr. Sanborn August 13, 1883.

The next owners were John B. Corliss and Harvey M. Sargent, March 12, 1886. They sold to Jacob Sanborn March 1st, 1891.



John H. Collins, grandson of Nathan, bought October 23, 1895, and resold to Jacob Sanborn June 26th 1899.

On August 30, 1901, in the night my home was awakened by the call of "fire". I was too little to go, but remember the glare on the sky. The next morning Mr. Leon Blair and family were homeless, as the house was burned flat. They were tenants of Mr. Sanborn.

My uncle, Stephen Blaisdell, had returned from the railroad and came back to the old home. He wanted more land, so bought the Collins place, as it was called. When my uncle died the land was sold to Martha J. White, wife of Oscar White of Lakeport. His daughter, Susan F. Jones, May 3, 1920, sold to Clarena Davis. Mrs. Davis on June 8, 1928, sold to Daniel L., her husband. He sold May 31, 1830, ten acres to Lawrence E. Dolloff, who built the nice home which he and his family now occupy, and the flowers and attractive grounds are a credit to the locality.

### **David and Jean Sturrock (The Davenport Tavern)**

Just beyond the Dolloff place on the same side of the road once stood the blacksmith shop of Isaac Currier. The old tavern still stands across the road, now the property of David Sturrock.

This place has an interesting history. It was a stage coach tavern for almost sixty years. The first tavern keeper, as far as we know, was Richard Boynton, who came from Rowley, Massachusetts, about 1793.

Like all the places in this locality the original lot owner was John Leavitt of Exeter, original grantee of lot 6, fourth range, first division. He sold to John Gilman all of one hundred acres except what he had given the town for a cemetery and town house lot.

In the year 1784, July 2nd, George Leighton bought seventy and one-half acres on the easterly side of the Province Road, next to Farrar's. He must have built the house.

September 2, 1793, Leighton sold to Andrew Woodman (this is how he got possession of the blacksmith shop opposite Young's Tavern) fifty-two acres. October 11, 1793, Richard Boynton purchased the fifty-two acres. Also Andrew Woodman had bought one hundred fifty acres of Leighton, land he purchased of John Gilman, John Dockham, and John Swasey of Gilmanton, October 12, 1792.

Richard Boynton died August 15, 1802, and his widow, Susanna, was administrator of the estate. The Boynton farm was sold December 10, 1806, to James Parker from Susanna Boynton, Administrator, seventy acres on the easterly side of the Province Road.



In 1801 the Gilmans had sold Boynton their farm. Parker sold to George Hill one hundred fifty acres, the Richard Boynton homestead.

March 11, 1808, George Hill sold to Timothy, Jr. and Leonard Stevens. February 22, 1815, Timothy and Leonard sold to Hazen Lawrence land purchased of George Hill in 1810. Hazen sold to Daniel Smith in 1817, who in turn sold to Isaac Currier January 26, 1824. For some unknown reason he changed his name to Davenport, and the initials "T. D." are on the capstone of the well across from the tavern.



Davenport's Tavern was built by George Leighton 1785, he was an assessor. Later the property was owned by Richard Boynton, 1856 the place was bought by John Blaisdell of Epping (cousin of David Blaisdell). It is now property of Reta J. and Roger R. Paquette.

When Woodman owned the place he built and started a store between the blacksmith shop and the well. Behind the store door was found, one the morning of February 16, 1838, the body of Tom Davenport. He had hung himself with a rope from a rafter. Later the store was moved across the highway and became the ell of the house and is right there today.

Another feature of the place was the partition upstairs in the house, which could be fastened up to the ceiling. It was hung on hinges so the two rooms could be made into one large room for dancing. This



swinging partition was not removed until the place became the property of Clarence Jones. Many a "hoe down" must have been a feature of hospitality in the stage coach days.

Many years ago, old folks have told, during a severe winter storm they awakened in the morning and looked out only to gasp in amazement for the barn which stood across the way had been burned during the night. The roar of the storm had made so much noise they had slept soundly through the night, unmindful of the burning barn.

After the death of Tom the place was run as a tavern by Mr. William Pike, but the railroad was being built in 1848 and the stage coach days were over. All the life of the town was centering at the "Bridge" (Laconia) and Meredith Village at the north end of town.

The Davenport Tavern stands on the corner of lot 6, fourth range, and two cross roads were planned to go east and west at this point. It is interesting to know when these roads were laid out.

Thomas Davenport married Hannah D. Smith. They had a daughter, Sarah B., who married George W. Stevens, a lawyer at the "Bridge". He was in the office of Judge Warren Lovell. They had three children. Georgianna married M. C. Boynton. Ella married M. K. Harkness and went to Utah. George Edward died in Laconia.

For some years the old tavern on the Parade was tied up in litigation, but finally on March 31st, 1856 the property was sold to John Blaisdell of Epping, New Hampshire. He was a cousin of my grandfather David. We always spoke of him as "Uncle Johnnie". He married Deborah Garland, and they were the parents of four daughters, Clara Barker, Abbie Jane, Eva Zooley, and Ida Silvey. Clara married Mr. Davis, and Eva married Harvey M. Sargent, who carried on the farm for several years. Miss Ruth Sargent, the youngest of the three children of Mr. and Mrs. Sargent, is the last of the family, her brother Dean and sister Gladys having died a few years ago. Mrs. Sargent lived to be ninety-one years old.

The Blaisdell farm was sold at auction June 30th, 1911 to Myra E. Shannon. Clarence B. Jones bought the place May 7th, 1914, two hundred thirty-five acres. He made extensive repairs to the place.

Clarence B. Jones died April 2, 1915 and the oldest son, Clarence, Jr., bought from his sister, Mrs. Rita Stone, and brothers John and Burleigh, October 13th, 1927. Clarence died March 7, 1936, and his wife sold the farm February 10, 1944, to John S. Griffin and Rupert M. Much, who disposed of his interest to Mrs. Much January 1st, 1946.

The place was sold to Edna I. and Freeman French on November 14,



1947, and on November 1, 1952, it became property of David A. M. and Jean B. Sturrock.

During the ownership of Mr. French the old house caught fire, and but for the quick work and response of the fire company, the place would have been totally destroyed. The property is now owned by Reta and Raymond R. Paquette.

### **“Old Cellar Hole” “Young’s Tavern”**

About half way between the Davenport Tavern and the town cemetery, ever since I can remember, there has been a bunch of lilac bushes beside the highway. The old cellar hole has been filled in but was there for years marking the place where Young’s Tavern of colonial days once stood. Like all the taverns in those days, a blacksmith shop was on the east side of the road, opposite the old cellar.

This old tavern was torn down and moved to Lakeport and made into the tenement house which stands on “Brimstone Corner” at the junction of Elm and Gold Streets. For years a saloon was located in the building, so the name “Brimstone Corner”, (D. A. R. book). This book states that the building was built by Lieutenant John Gilman.

In tracing the deeds to this property I find that John Leavitt of Exeter sold one hundred acres of John Gilman of Epping, “being my original right, excepting one acre I gave to the town of Meredith for the meeting house and burial ground”, November 30, 1776.

John Gilman was here on April 7, 1777, for he was elected town auditor at the town meeting held on that date at the house of Ebenezer Smith.

John Gilman went to live in Sandwich and deeded the farm to Tristram and John Gilman, Jr., “all my farm I purchased of John Leavitt, excepting what I conveyed to John Dockham, George Leighton, and Zadock Bowman”, March 28, 1801.

In 1805 Tristram and John Gilman, Jr. deeded the farm to John, who deeded to Isaac Ladd “land on the west side of Province Road, with buildings”.

Andrew Young was the next owner October 29, 1814. Daniel Woodman’s blacksmith shop was excluded, which was on the east side of the road. Andrew deeded to Elezaer and George W. Young on October 29th, 1824. Eleazer quitclaimed to George W. Stevens April 22nd, 1826.

Down over the hill from the site of the tavern is one of the finent springs of water in the state of New Hampshire, crystal-clear, and the



water level never changes no matter how severe the drought. Enough water runs to waste to supply a half dozen families continuously.

### **The Old Town House**

Opposite the old public pound is the site of the Congregational Church and town house and the cemetery of the town of Meredith. The land was given the town by John Leavitt of Exeter. The deed to this land was given July 2nd, 1772, but the deed was never recorded until 1924, having been found at the "Squire" John Smith place when it was the property of Jacob Sanborn's estate. "For one shilling lawful money of said Province" John Leavitt of Exeter deeded the one acre tract to the inhabitants of the four-year old town.

On March 13, 1786, a town meeting was called, but adjourned to March 29th. Voted to build a meeting house in said town within one year from September next ensuing, about 48 by 38 feet, twenty foot posts, and to be boarded and shingled and set on the one acre of land purchased of John Leavitt for that purpose. Voted Ebenezer Smith Esq., Chase Robinson, Capt. Joshua Woodman, Lieutenant William Davis, and Elias Philbrick be a committee for the purpose, and confer with the Baptist Society and report to this meeting what of the sum given by the proprietors belongs to each meeting house, which report was "variable," then voted that this meeting be dismissed and the people separated from the meeting accordingly.

It took sixteen years from the time of the first vote to build a meeting house, April 4, 1774, to the time of the first town meeting, which was held the 8th day of March 1790. As the town house was on the first floor and the church upstairs, it would seem that the church was finished at this time. A meeting was called December 13, 1790, and it was voted to sell at public vendue to the highest bidder, the pews in said North Meeting House.

The old church had the old-fashioned high-back pews, the high pulpit, above which was a sounding board, and a gallery on the highway and under which was the entrance.

On the 28th day of November 1792, was installed the Reverend Simon Finley Williams as the pastor of this church, and he remained until his dismissal March the 2nd 1797. As far as the records go, no other regular pastor was engaged to preach at this church.

Town meetings were held in this building until 1855. The building of the railroad and the growth of the communities at both ends of the town, the "Bridge" (now Laconia) and Meredith Village, caused the building of the new town house at Meredith Village, which had not been



finished at the time of the annual town meeting on March 13, 1855, when a section of the floor about thirteen by twenty-nine feet, suddenly gave way and over one hundred men fell seventeen or eighteen feet to the rocks and timbers below. James W. Durgin, Washington Smith, Benjamin D. Roberts and Nathaniel Nichols died in a short time, while other men were more or less crippled for life. This led to the separation of the town, and Laconia was separated from the town of Meredith by act of the Legislature July 14, 1855.

In 1859 the old church was moved to Meredith Village and became the Free-will Baptist Church on Lang Street. After the union of this church with the Congregational Church, it was taken over by the town and is used as a gymnasium.

My father could remember the last meeting held in the old church when it stood on the Parade. He could just look over the window sill. After the meeting it was customary for the children to go down to the town house, and he said that they found oranges and gingerbread that had been left by the voters. He said that the snow drift at the corner was red with blood from a punched nose. There had been a fist fight over the election.

It would seem that abandonment of the site by the town for its meeting place over one hundred years ago because of lack of transportation, and the splitting of the town, today would not happen, for the automobile would make it convenient to meet here, being half way between the two parts of the town.

### **The Town Cemetery**

“Beneath those rugged elms, the yew tree shade,  
Where heaves the turf in many a mouldering heap,  
Each in his narrow cell forever laid,  
The rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep.”

Greys's Elegy

Several years ago this old cemetery, which had been neglected for many years and had become covered with brush and small growth, was restored with money appropriated by the Laconia City Council. Later it again became neglected and badly in need of care. There are more than one hundred twenty-eight burials in this yard, with very few stones to mark the graves. Recently work of restoration has been resumed.

A few years ago the ladies of the D. A. R. and the late Robert Foss were instrumental in having government stones placed in this yard to mark the last resting place of those who fought in the Revolution and the War of 1812.



Let us open the gate and walk in and read some of the interesting inscriptions on the stones. You will notice that most of the stones face the east, as was customary in the old days, the reason - on the resurrection morn when the trumpet sounds, those who arise will face the sunrise in the east.

The first lot on the left is that of the Farrar family. Here is a government stone for Isaac Farrar and his wife, Mary. Isaac Farrar served as private in Col. Ebenezer Smith's company for the relief of Ticonderoga, time of entry July 7, 1777. There are also Stephen Farrar and his wife, Sarah, and Col. Stephen and his wife, Lucy.

Isaac Farrar II died November 25, 1858. At his death his wife, Hannah Blaisdell, and four daughters sold the old Farrar home and went to Portsmouth, Ohio.

Nancy, daughter of Isaac and Hannah Currier, died September 17, 1813.

There are no other stones in this lot.

Richard Boynton and his wife, Susanna, have good stones. Richard's was replaced by a government stone a few years ago. Richard served in the Revolutionary War as a substitute for Joseph Smith of New Hampton and was in Capt. Stephen Peabody's company at Ticonderoga.

Benjamin Quimby died September 2, 1856, aged sixty-three. He might have served in the war in 1817.

James Quimby, private in Capt. Moore's company, Col. John Stark's regiment, engaged April 23, 1775, was probably at Bunker Hill.

Caleb Quimby has a government stone, aged 20, son of James, private in Capt. Chase Taylor's company in the Bennington campaign, time in the service 28 days, travel to Charlestown, travel home 170. He was living in Meredith in 1790.

Lieutenant George Leighton has the next flag, but no stone. He was in town in 1785, so must have served in the war. He was a private in a company of light-horse volunteers commanded by Col. John Leighton in the expedition to Rhode Island in August 1778. He enlisted August 6, 1778. His wife was Deborah.

The next stones are those of the son and daughter of Rueben and Mary Morgan. Reuben has a government stone. The son, Reuben, died aged two years, two months, nineteen days. Mary, the daughter, died July 1st, 1829, aged twelve years, ten months, fifteen days. Reuben and Mary are probably buried here. Reuben got a pension in 1840. He was ninety-two years old at that time. We do not know Reuben's war record.



The next stone is that of Allan Peabody. He died May 11, 1813, aged forty-three. He did not serve in any war as far as we have records.

At the end of the cemetery is the row of stones which marks the graves of Nathaniel R. Wadleigh and his wife, Polly H. Ray. He served in the Revolution and was discharged March 12, 1791, from Capt. Robert Pike's company. This man was the great-great-grandfather of Isaac Trojano of Meredith.

We now start back on the other side of the yard, and near the wall on the northerly side is the grave of John Bryant. The Bryants lived in olden times near the Roller Coaster Road. They moved to Meredith Neck, and several Bryants are buried in the cemetery near the church at the Neck. John served in the War of 1812.

The slate stone of John Bryant I have read many times. It is found in many of the old cemeteries with this verse:

“Just heed these lines as you pass by,  
As you are now, so once was I.  
As I am now, you too must be.  
Prepare for death and follow me.”

Uncle Ben Page is buried in this part of the yard, but the exact place is not known. As there is a family record that Great-great-grandmother was a Bryant, I presume that Benjamin's grave is near the Bryants.

Samuel Carr's grave was located by Mr. Robert Foss and has a government stone. For the war record of Samuel Carr, he was in Capt. Duncan's company for service at Ticonderoga July 1st to July 5th, 1777, and Col. Ebenezer Smith's company and Capt. Chase Taylor's company at Bennington.

We will now go to the center of the yard where Capt. Elias Philbrook and wife Anna are buried.

Near the foot of the Blaisdell lot are two stones, that of Capt. Andrew Young, who was born in 1769, and his wife Betsey who died January 20, 1833, aged sixty-five. Capt. Andrew died in 1845, aged seventy-six years. There is also a stone to the memory of Mary J., daughter of Mr. Eleazer and Mrs. Hannah Young, who died October 2, 1821. She was only three years old.

We now have arrived at my great-grandfather's lot, John Blaisdell's. He was born March 31, 1765, and died January 8, 1844. Beside him is great-grandmother Esther Kelley. She was born November 12, 1775, and died February 28, 1864.

The next grave is that of Uncle Richard, his son, born February



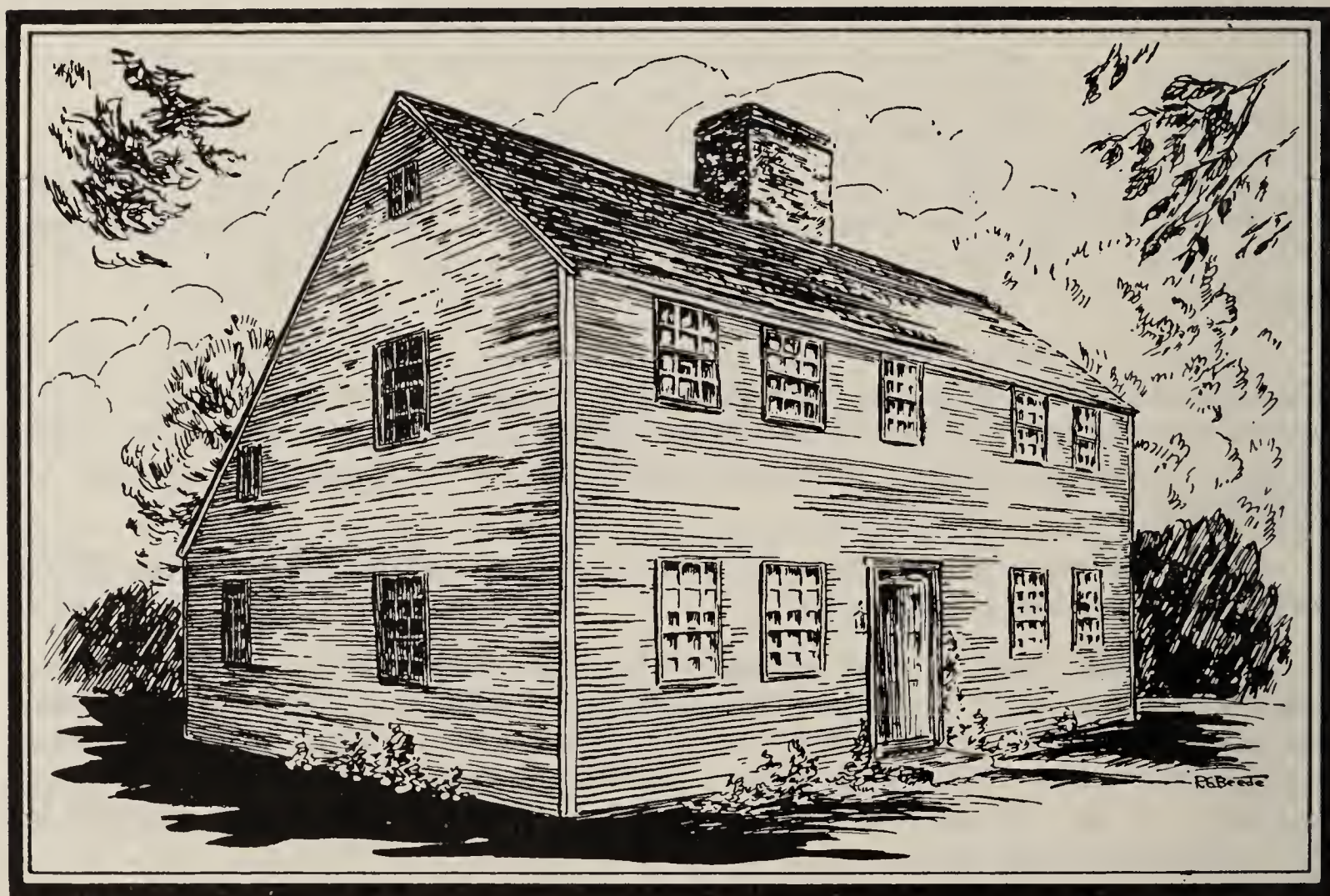
20, 1805, who died November 8, 1847. Beside him is his sister Sally, born February 16, 1811, who died January 21, 1841.

My grandfather, David Blaisdell, who died in 1888, was buried here, also my grandmother, Eliza Sanborn Gilman, who died March 28, 1899, aged eighty-five. Their oldest son Napoleon was buried here. He died February 19, 1850.

The old cemetery became so neglected that the family thought best to remove their folks and purchase a lot at Bayside.

If any living person has any records of any kind in regard to burials in this yard, it would be appreciated if we could receive the same for this record. Otherwise let us close the gate and go our way. Like the unknown soldier, those who lie here are known only to God.

### Great-Grandfather Blaisdell's



John Blaisdell home, built 1791, razed about 1880. Sketch by Ruth G. Beede, from a description given to Carl F. Blaisdell by his father, Frank N. Blaisdell.

Zaidock Bowman had bought the "pound pasture" so-called, of



John Gilman. My great-grandfather, John Blaisdell, who was the son of Lieutenant Jacob of Epping, had served the few last months of the Revolution, he being only fourteen years old and served only three months and twenty-two days before the end of the war. In 1790 he came to Meredith Parade and bought land of Bowman (the deed not found, but referred to in deed from Simon Finlay Williams of December 29, 1794). After building his house (a comb-case, two stories in front facing south and one story in back), he married in 1793, at Epping, Betsey Sanborn, who died July 4, 1801, leaving two girls and a boy, William. The daughter Betsey married Stephen Boynton, and Hannah married Isaac Farrar (the inn-keeper).

Great-grandfather married for his second wife, Esther Kelley of Stratham. She was born November 12, 1775. Her father was in the Revolution. She could remember being all dressed up by her mother for the home-coming of her father, but when the soldiers returned he was not there and was never heard from.

Esther had six children: Daniel, born 1805; Mary born in 1807, married Benson Clock; David, born 1809, married Eliza Gilman of Tamworth; Sally, born 1811, married Jonathan Coffin; Susan, born 1813, married Cyrus Baldwin; and Laura, born in 1816, who married Anderson Corning.

Great-grandfather died January 8, 1844. My grandfather was a carpenter and had married my grandmother, Eliza Sanborn Gilman. After his father died he and grandmother came back to the old home until he bought land and buildings on the opposite side of the road, where he moved in May 1854.

Grandfather bought the interests of the other members of the family and it became part of his farm.

In 1801 Great-grandfather had bought twelve acres on the west side of the Province Road, but sold it again on January 6, 1806, to John Farrar. In 1836 the town of Meredith cut a new road from near the pound to the "Cool Spring" so called. They went between the east side of the house and the old well. My father remembered leaning out the windows in the attic and almost touching the elephants as they passed in the road, as the circus travelled over the roads in those days. These buildings were finally torn down, but the depression of the cellar can yet be seen, and of course the old well is still there.

Most of Great-grandfather's land was on the east side of the Province Road and extended up over the hill, and for that reason it is called "Blaisdell Hill." When the plan of the town was made they did not have a very good idea of the layout of the land. When the ranges were



finally established the town square was found to be right on the top of this hill. That is why Meredith never had a town square like so many of the old towns have in New Hampshire.

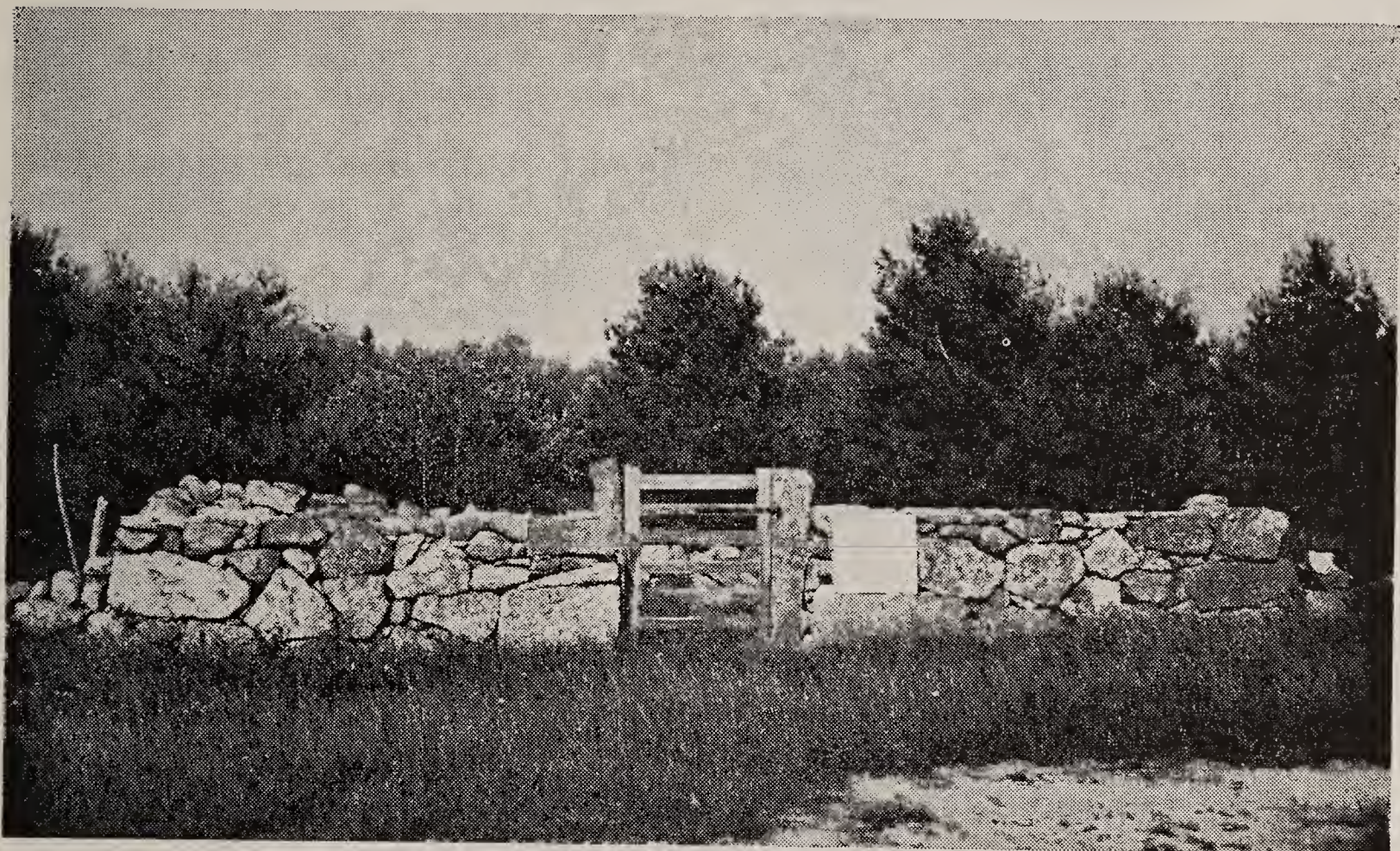
My father played on the hill when a small boy, and he found garnets up there. I wonder if any could be found today. I have a recollection of going up there only once, and that time we were on our way to the lonely spring over on the back side, from which water was piped to my grandfather's. I will tell you about how it ran under that heading. The United States government at one time maintained a signal tower on the summit. It was a small barrel on top of a pole set in the ledges. It was painted with black and white stripes, going around and around the barrel.

I might tell you the remainder of the story, for while it is true, I would not tell it only I feel sure that all concerned have long since gone to their reward. At the time when the signal pole was on the hill the United States government surveyors were on Belknap Mountain. A party of young men of the community decided to go to the top of the mountain. My father was one of the ten — I think that was the number, for when the party got to the point where the paths divide, one leading to Belknap on the right and to Gunstock on the left, the party divided. My father and two other boys chose to go up Gunstock, while the others proceeded up Belknap. It could be stated that some had a supply of firewater to help them climb. My father and his friends reached the top of Gunstock, and after looking around and eating their lunches they returned to the base without seeing any of the other party, and after a time went home. Much to my father's surprise two or three days later he was visited by the Belknap County sheriff with a warrant for his arrest. Upon inquiring as to the cause of such procedure, he was informed that he was one of the party who had visited the top of the mountain and destroyed the government scientific instruments on the summit, doing great damage to not only the telescope and sights but the tents and camping equipment of the surveyors. My father explained that he was one of the other boys who did not go to the top of Belknap, but did go to the top of Gunstock and did not rejoin the party. However the judge did not exempt the three boys and fined them all alike. My father paid one hundred twenty-five dollars, the amount specified for each, although he had nothing to do with the vandalism on the top of Belknap. He used to tell me to be sure of my companions when I started out, as you are classed with the company you keep. I could tell you the names of some of the boys, but it all happened years ago and no doubt you would not know them, as even their families no longer live here. We sometimes think that all cases of vandalism today never happened before, but this true record proves otherwise.



There was an old shop at Great-grandfather's many years after the house was torn down. This stood on the east side of the old road across from the barn now standing on what was my grandfather's place.

### The Town Pound



Pound 1789. Restored in 1934.

In the early days there were few fences, and cattle and swine were allowed to run in the highways and on the "common lands" and sometimes overran the limits granted them, they becoming an annoyance and doing damage. This became an evil which could not long be borne, and a law was passed in 1692 requiring that one or more pounds should be made and maintained in every town for impounding swine or cattle found doing damage.

At the town meeting April 3, 1775, Meredith voted to build a pound. The record is as follows: "Seventh article in said warrant. Voted to build a pound and set the same in the crotch of the way near Reuben Marston, Jr's. in said town the year ensuing at the cost of said town. Voted to pay John Kimball one pound sixteen shillings and nine pence lawful money for building a good common pound of pine, oak or hemlock timber of suitable size, thirty feet square, seven and a half feet high. And I, the said John Kimball, hereby promise to perform the same agreeable to the above said vote by the first day of July next."



John Kimball started to build the pound. When the news of the Battle of Lexington reached here he lay down his tools, took his gun, and bidding his family good-bye enlisted in Capt. Elias Woodbury's company, Col. Stark's regiment, engaged April 23, 1775, four days after the battle. He served three months and eleven days. He was at the Battle of Bunker Hill. He also served in the fourth company, tenth New Hampshire Militia under Col. Badger. He was also at Saratoga and at the surrender of Burgoyne.

April 1st, 1776, fifth article, "Voted to build a pound in the same manner as was voted at the last annual meeting of said town. Also voted that Ltn. John Kimball have the time prolonged to complete said pound until the first day of July next, which is to be done agreeable to the agreement at said meeting."

John Kimball was living in Meredith in 1790. His great-granddaughter is Mildred Bucklin of Laconia. In April 1776 the town voted that John Kimball have the time prolonged to complete said pound, which he did when he returned after the war, as stated by Mrs. Bucklin.

As the pound was built of wooden boards it soon became decayed. At the town meeting of March 9th, 1789 at the house of Capt. William Ray, voted to build a pound near the meeting house thirty feet square. This is built of stone and is still there.

Some years ago at the instigation of the D. A. R. ladies, the city of Laconia appropriated money for the repair of the gate and front wall. Mrs. Mary E. Neal Hanaford gave the stone marker "Old Meredith Pound 1789", which was set in the wall at the right of the gate.

Reuben Marston, Jr. was the first pound-keeper. He served from 1777 to 1789. John Gilman was elected in 1790, George Leighton in 1791, and John Gilman in 1792. He also served again in 1793. Here the record stops. My grandfather was pound-keeper for many years, and also my Uncle Stephen. Fred W. Houston was the last man to be elected to that position in the year 1912.

### **David Blaisdell My Grandfather's Home**

This is the place of my birth, my grandfather's home, located just beyond the town cemetery and across the road from the old home of my great-grandfather, John Blaisdell.

Like all others in this locality the farm was originally the lot of John Leavitt of Exeter, the original grantee, lot 6, fourth range. John Leavitt sold to John Gilman in 1776, and John Gilman sold to Great-grand-



father John September 23, 1801 "twenty-two acres on the westerly side of the Province Road."



David Blaisdell home. In 1806 a house was standing on this site, probably built by John Farrar. It remained in David Blaisdell's family 64 years. He bought in 1854. Now property of Armand J. and Rita M. Dauphin.

Great-grandfather sold to John Farrar January 6, 1806, and on December 29th that same year John sold to Isaac Ladd, and Isaac sold one and three fourths acres and buildings to David Boynton, who in turn sold to Amasa Howard May 6th 1819. Amasa sold to Ebenezer Pitman March the 20th 1820 the same one and three fourths acres. The property then passed to Elezaer Young May 29th, 1821.

The next owner was Stephen Farrar May 3, 1828. In 1836 he sold to Lucy, his wife. On August 12, 1848 Lucy sold to Isaac Farrar, her brother-in-law, and six years later he sold to my grandmother, Eliza Blaisdell, May 1st, 1854.

My grandparents were married in Tamworth August 22nd, 1837, and on January 3, 1839, their first child was born. He was named David Napoleon. He died February 19, 1850. From the date of his death my grandfather never allowed the door of the house to be locked at night.

In 1841 their second child was born, Charles Henry, who married



and went to Kansas. Eliza Anna was born May, 1844, married George Gray, son of Myron. She died May 19th, 1923 and is buried at Bayside in the family lot. John Clock and Hannah Gilman were twins, born September 23, 1847. John never married. Hannah married John Henry Robinson, son of Langdon and Rachel (Smith) Robinson, buried at Bayside. Frank Napoleon was born September 25, 1851, my father. Mary Susan was born August 25, 1853, married J. Frank Weeks and buried at Bayside. Stephen Boynton was born March 4th, 1856, and died January 20, 1918, at the old home on the Parade. He had been an engineer for the Boston and Maine Railroad for over twenty years, running from Concord to Boston. He always ran a freight as he did not want to be responsible for human lives. When Grandmother died in 1899 she gave the old home to her youngest son, and he came home to the farm, which he occupied until his death, January 20, 1918.

My father and mother were married April 30, 1886. They went to live at the old farm on the Parade, where I was born August 31st, 1887.

While at the farm my father wanted to have running water into the house as all water had to be carried from the well to the house and barn. As I stated in the account of Great-grandfather's farm, there was a spring over back of Blaisdell Hill. How to get the water over the hill was his problem. He finally decided to go around the hill to the north and use an air chamber. This was a big job. I can not tell you the distance by route when completed. He dug most of the ditch in which to lay the pipe by lantern light at night. After his day's work was done at carpentering he would take a lantern, go to the side of the hill, place his lantern five or six feet ahead of him, and dig to the light. Then when he had dug to the light, he would set his lantern ahead again. Think of the lead pipe which was laid in this way, and for all I know is still buried on the hillside.

As I have said, the water ran nicely for several years, but it was necessary to go every so often up to the air chamber and let out the air. I remember going with him to the spring and air chamber. The water had to be drawn up the back side of the hill then fall by gravity on the west side down to the buildings, which were located below the level of the spring. Air would get in the pipe, travel up to the highest point and into the air chamber. The pipe full of water would then be driven by the flow of gravity to the house, as I have stated. The pipe could have been laid around the hill at a lower level and not use the air chamber, but it would have meant a much longer way to have dug the ditch, and the cost of the pipe would have been much more.

Uncle Stephen, when he came home from the railroad, tried to start the water running again. The farm had been closed as most of



the family had gone to Massachusetts. He dug a new spring higher up on the back of the hill, thereby raising the source of the water about fifty feet or more. The spring went dry, and the pipe was abandoned. The well at the house was blasted down to a new depth, and I am sure it has served the several owners through more recent times.

My father, Frank N. Blaisdell, attended the district school which stood on the right side of the road half way down the hill, beyond the John S. Wadleigh place, now owned by Joseph Dauphin. It is of interest to know that the piece of land once owned by Daniel Webster was at the southeast corner of the road in front of the Wadleigh buildings, as the cross road, "roller coaster" as it is now called in these days left the Province Road at that point. On account of the hill it was later changed to the foot of the hill, where it is now located.

I would like to tell you stories of the old school as my father told them to me, such as putting the teacher, a man with a wooden leg, out in the apple tree, desk and all, blocking the chimney and smoking the scholars out, and setting the school house on fire by dropping a match in the knot hole behind the blackboard. My father called the teacher a "darned old bellus" and when she tried to punish him he grabbed her watch, threw it across the room and smashed it to bits, all because he wanted to sit beside his oldest sister the first day of school. Uncle Isaac Wadleigh had told him the day before, "If the teacher tries to punish you, you call her a darned old bellus", and he did. I could go on and on. Schools have changed, but the comparison is interesting, the year 1856, my father five years old.

When still a boy he went to work on the "Lady of the Lake" where he served under Captains Lovett, Sanborn and Wadleigh. It was hard work, for cords of wood to run the engines the next day were piled on the wharf at the Weirs or Wolfeboro where the boat tied up for the night, and it had to be all put on the boat at night for the next day's trip, often taking until ten or eleven o'clock at night. He had one man to help him, but it had to be all loaded on with wheelbarrows. Could you find a man for the job today?

I would like to tell you stories of the boat and the spearing of the rattle snake off Diamond Island. The snake was sent to Dartmouth College. I often wonder if it is still there. My father also worked as assistant engineer. His experiences would fill a book. He, however, gave up the lake, got married, and went to work carpentering. I often wonder why I was not a carpenter. I do like to handle and use carpenter's tools.

My father spent the last part of his life as a farmer, running my



Grandfather Weeks' place, since 1890. He died June 11th, 1913, and was buried at Bayside.

After my Uncle Stephen died, January 20th, 1918, the old home farm was sold to Henry B. Clow, 125 acres, seven parcels, with buildings, June 17th, 1918. Henry Clow sold to William B. and Charles Swain April 26, 1920, and they occupied the place for thirty-one years. The oldest brother, William, died, and Charles being left alone, his wife having died, his conservator, Agnes McLaughlin, his sister-in-law, sold the place to Armand J. and Rita M. Dauphin on September 20, 1951, where he lives at the present time.

### The Old Peabody Cellar Hole

Lot 6 in the fourth range was drawn by John Leavitt of Exeter. Therefore all the titles to land in this neighborhood can be traced to that man. He deeded a lot of one hundred acres to John Gilman, lot six, fourth range, first division "being his original right excepting one acre which he gave to the town of Meredith for the meeting house and burial lot, November 30, 1776." John Gilman, Jr. deeded to Isaac Ladd December 21, 1804, and Ladd deeded to Artemas Peabody January 17, 1809 one acre with dwelling bounded on the road which leads from the Province Road to Bickford's Mills (at Meredith Center). This road was laid out March 4th 1795. The lot bounded on the road eighteen and one half rods and on the Province Road eight and one-half rods. It would seem that John Gilman built the house.

Artemas Peabody deeded the place June 21st, 1813 to Asa Dunbar and Allen Peabody. Allen Peabody died May 11, 1813 (inscription on gravestone, town cemetery, age 43). In 1826 the land was owned by the heirs of Peabody, but in 1832 it was deeded to Samuel Connor, and Asa D. Peabody and Benjamin Fox of Peeling, Grafton County, Sarah Peabody and Eleanor B. Fox (wives) also signed off their rights.

We now have a missing link. No deed is found of Samuel Connor to my great-grandparents, John and Esther Blaisdell. Great-grandfather died January 8, 1844, and Great-grandmother Esther sold the Peabody place to Ebenezer S. Mooney, guardian of L. A. (Davenport) Stevens, May 3, 1845. George W. Stevens and Sarah Ann (Davenport) Stevens sold the place to Isaac Wadleigh November 16, 1850. Isaac Wadleigh's sister Almira married James Filgate May 18, 1852. Isaac Wadleigh sold the Peabody lot to his brother-in-law, James Filgate. Two years after in 1854 the property passed to my grandmother, Eliza (Gilman) Blaisdell. My grandfather had bought the land and buildings adjoining the Peabody lot. From this time on the land has been a part of the Blaisdell farm. The buildings were torn down, but the old cellar was plainly seen when I was a boy.



There was a Betsey Peabody living in this house for many years. She might have been the widow of Allen, who died May 18, 1813, is buried in the old town yard and has a slate headstone.

### **The Moses Moulton Place**

This place raises questions which do not seem to have answers, but other facts are unveiled during the search for the title to this property. The earliest record is a deed from John Gilman to the town March 14th, 1789. It covers a three-cornered piece at the corner of the road laid out in 1795 by the selectmen. The lot lies between the minister's lot and the Gilman lot. The line runs at an acute angle from the Province Road, and the cross road left the old Province Road at a right angle. Therefore it is a pie-shaped lot which Gilman deeded the town.

Caleb Quimby first settled on land which later became the farm of Amos Hadley near Long Bay (Paugus). He owned only a log cabin, as the land is recorded to Ephraim Robinson, who evidently engaged Quimby to settle for him. He was there in 1766. When he came to the Parade, we do not know.

There were two houses on the lot at one time. See Book 13, Page 451, Belknap County Records, "a certain new house standing between James Quimby's and John Boynton's (minister's lot) standing on one acre of land owned by the town, and was built generally of timbers and boards which came out of the old Baptist meeting house, which formerly stood below Reuben Morgan's in said Meredith", November 5, 1831. (This proves that the old church could not have been burned as stated in the D. A. R. book.)

Some of the deeds of this place only convey the house, which shows there was a question as to the title of the land belonging to the town of Meredith.

James and Irene Quimby sold the corner house to Isaac Farrar June 16, 1829. James Quimby was a private in Capt. Moore's company, Col. Stark's regiment, April 23, 1775. He was forty-eight years old July 5th, 1780.

James Jr. was twenty-one years old in 1777. He was in Col. George Reed's company. Also Caleb, aged twenty, brother of James, Jr., was a private in Capt. Chase Taylor's company at Bennington.

Benjamin Quimby was born in Meredith in 1793 and died September 2, 1856, aged sixty-three. Benjamin M. Quimby sold to Isaac Currier, Jr. the house only, November 5, 1831. May 18, 1832, Isaac Currier sold the house and barn to James and Irene on land of the town. This must be the corner house. James Quimby sold to Benjamin Quimby January



20, 1835, "all the interest in the tract of land between John Boynton's and James Quimby's."

On February 17, 1840, Benjamin sold to Caroline Quimby (spinster), "beginning at the southeast corner of Nathaniel Boynton's, thence southwesterly six rods to land owned by said Caroline". This deed combines the two lots, making one lot as it remains today.

Caroline Quimby married Leander Taggart. "In her right from Benjamin N. Quimby" she sold the place to Isaac Wadleigh September 4, 1848. Isaac Wadleigh of Bellows Falls, Vermont, "sold three parcels May 18, 1852, the old home, the Peabody place south of the road leading to Nathaniel Wadleigh's, and land between the old and new road where John Farrar's house lately stood." Isaac sold to James Filgate of Manchester May 18, 1852, and James Filgate sold to Nathan Collins October 23, 1865. Mrs. James Filgate was the sister of Isaac Wadleigh. The place then passed from Nathan to his son, John S. Collins, May 12, 1866. Mrs. Nathan Collins was Nancy C. Smith. John S. Collins and wife, Nettie (Robinson) sold the place September 4, 1879, to Julia A. Moulton.

Mrs. Moulton passed away, and her husband, George M. Moulton, sold the place to Tryphina A. Drake April 29, 1908. Mrs. Drake passed on, and her administrator, the late Fletcher Hale, sold the place to Harry A. Blair November 15, 1913. In 1945, October 18th, Mr. Blair sold the place to Fred Elwin and Mable Grace Fisher. They in turn sold the place on June 2, 1950, to Clifford C. and Antoinette T. Eastman, and the Eastmans sold June 16th, 1953, to Lionel and Mabel Lovely, who now occupy the place, being engaged in the poultry business.

### The Parsonage

In January 28th, 1792 the town of Meredith voted to build a house or parsonage for the town minister, the Reverend Simon Finlay Williams, "the town shall build the house forty feet by thirty-two feet wide, two stories, to be built on the minister's lot, making a good cellar under one-half of the house, build a good stack chimney and finish three rooms, to be completed by the first of November next", also to receive yearly sixty pounds, one third in cash, one third part in corn and grain, and the remaining third to be paid in beef and pork, Chase Robinson, Joseph Roberts and William Davis, Committee.

The house was built and occupied by the Reverend Williams until his dismissal as pastor March 2nd, 1797. He immediately enlisted as chaplain in the U. S. Navy August 1st, 1799, he sold his entire farm in Meredith to Richard Boynton. After Richard died in 1802 his widow, Susanna, sold at auction as administrator "farm bought of Simon Finlay Williams" December 6th, 1806, to Daniel Avery. Daniel sold the place to



Stephen and John Boynton February 2nd, 1808.

Stephen sold his part of the farm March 11th, 1810 to David and on December 5, 1836, John sold his part to Nathaniel Batchelder, who disposed of it "being the land on which I now live on the Province Road, westerly side, seventy acres, bounded on the south by the cross road and land of Caroline Quimby", to Ezekiel Dow September 18, 1841. Ezekiel sold to Lorenzo Dow November 8, 1843. July 22, 1850 the farm was purchased by James M. Robinson, who lived there nineteen years.

Mrs. Sarah (Smith) Robinson died March 24, 1864. She was granddaughter of Hon. Ebenezer Smith. After the death of Mrs. Robinson her daughter Annette kept house for her father, and it was at this time that the following incident happened.

I remember distinctly Annette, who was a friend of my mother, told her the following tale. She said her father had to be away from home for the evening, leaving her alone. She spent the early part of the evening reading, but later took up her knitting, and perhaps had worked for an hour or so when a sharp quick report came from the door leading toward the shed. There were three quick strikes on the door as if done with a whip or a stick. She had listened for her father's return, but she knew that it could not be that he had come. In spite of being frightened she turned down the light, and not hearing foot-steps or any sound of movement of any kind, she arose, went to the front room and put a chair against the door latch, where she remained until her father returned, which luckily was a short time after. A thorough search of the premises revealed nothing to show any intruder being on the place, and from that day to this no explanation of the strange raps was ever made. This is the event as related by Mrs. Collins over sixty-five years ago.

On April 12, 1869, James M. Robinson sold his one hundred acre farm to Myron Gray. Mr. Gray was quite active in town affairs, being the reason for the following poem, which was composed by a young man of the locality. I will repeat it as my father told it to me many years ago.

"How majestic stands the barn  
That sets upon Lord Bolton's farm,  
For he belonged to the upper ten  
And leading the Board of Selectmen,  
Inspected roads by night and day,  
And people called him Bolton Gray."

The next owner of the Parson Williams farm was James M. Drake, who bought it October 26, 1885. Mr. Drake had been in the west and returned east. His knowledge of mining made him interested in the Gray farm as it had several outcroppings of mineral deposits. After



purchasing the farm he opened up a shaft down in the pasture. This mine, as we shall call it, had a house over the shaft which was blasted down to the seam of quartz, which runs from northeast to southwest. While several different metals were found, the quantity was not sufficient to make the mine pay. The ore had to be hauled to Lakeport by ox-team and put on the cars to be shipped to the smelting works. There were no electric drills in those days, so the place was finally given up, but I went there many times when a boy, taking home big chunks of quartz. As the place became a wreck through neglect, the shaft was filled with rocks for fear cattle would get drowned in the pit.

March 26, 1913, the late Hon. Fletcher Hale of Laconia, Administrator of the Estate of James M. Drake, deeded the homestead farm, one hundred acres, to Leon E. Blair, who after five years sold the place to his son, Harry A. Blair, April 3, 1918. He also was interested in the mine on the place. He removed the rocks that filled the shaft, blasted a quantity of quartz from the vein and shipped the kegs to Arthur B. Little, Inc., Cambridge, Massachusetts.

I wish the report of the different minerals found had been kept and the percentages of the different minerals which were moulded into the form of a small disc, but I fear all have been lost. I think there was lead, silver and copper, but I do not recall any gold, although there might have been a small amount. I interviewed Mr. Blair, who still lives at Wolfeboro, New Hampshire, and he told me that he had no knowledge of what had become of the report or the disc.

Harry Blair sold the place after tearing down the old parsonage (a man came along and he sold him the old front stairs and panelling from the sum for one hundred dollars). Fred M. and Mabel Grace Fisher were the new owners October 18, 1945. They sold to the present owners, Leo P. and Leda Gaudette March 31, 1949.

All are memories except a cup plate of old blue showing old buildings in New York harbor, which came from this old parsonage.

**Part of an item found in the Laconia Democrat**  
**March 28, 1884**

“A New York concern has bonded the silver mine on the Gray farm in Laconia and is to expend a large sum of money developing it.”

The item goes on to mention that plumbago and silver and gold quartz were to be found.

“The mine is situated about two miles northwest from this village.”

The item ends up by saying that perhaps Laconia will end up as one of the great ore producing areas of the country.



We have now reached the end of our journey, and we will retrace our steps back to the "Bridge", as it was called by the older people when I was a boy.

I would like to go on and tell you about "Rap-a-tap" Tilton's shoemaker's shop, the lot of land owned by Daniel Webster, and Master Maloney and the bear, but time forbids.

As we go back down the hills let us remember that "Today is here, yesterday will soon be forgotten. In our eagerness to keep up with the fast-moving world, we are inclined to cast aside the old and accept the new, but the old things, whether they are old customs, old fashions, old methods, old-time tools or toys, are what helped make America the great country it is today." (From Turning Back the Pages of Time. Goyette Museum, Peterboro, New Hampshire.)

The pendulum swings, so we are told. What were productive and prosperous farms, fifty years ago are now being allowed to grow up to hardtack, bushes, and brush, but people seem to like to live in the country. The automobile has changed all our old ways of life.

We have passed three new sub-divisions of house lots on our way up here, the Lake View, Windemere, and these house lots owned by David Sturrock. It would seem that in a few years the Parade might return to the old plan of the forefathers and be a prosperous and lively part of the city of Laconia.

### **The Russian Count**

The following narrative is taken from an old newspaper clipping found in my grandfather's desk up in the attic of his home on the Parade, about forty years ago, when the place was sold to settle the estate of my uncle, Stephen Blaisdell.

The merchant at Meredith Bridge mentioned in the story was Mr. Stephen Perley, great-grandfather of Lew K. Perley, Dr. Russell Perley, and Mrs. Marion Perley Harriman, of this city.

My grandfather, who was born in 1809, well remembered the "coach and four" with all its splendor as it came up across the Parade on the way to the Wadleigh place mentioned in the story, which is as follows:

"The following true story was told by Dr. J. H. Sanborn and published in the Wakefield, (Mass.) Citizen and Banner last week:

The foregoing account I had from my father who was a physician and surgeon in Meredith at the time of the admiral's visit in 1831. I also had a full account of the same from Gen. John Wadleigh, adjutant general



of New Hampshire, in 1855, whom I attended in his last sickness and whose father was a parishioner of the Rev. Simon Finley Williams and at whose house the admiral stopped when in Meredith. The general said that at the time alluded to he was a boy of nineteen and that he had never seen any one with a full beard, but that the admiral was bearded like a pard. Samuel Beansey, an old time merchant of Meredith, whom I also attended in his last sickness, informed me that at the time of the boy's Hegira he was at work as a carpenter at Ossipee and that he carried him from here to Portland.

On Belknap Parade in the County of Belknap and State of New Hampshire and about two miles distant from Lake Winnepesaukee there still stands, where it has withstood the blasts of more than a century, a large two-story house in which lived in 1790 Rev. Simon Finley Williams, who was settled as the pastor by the town, as the custom at that time was. He came from Methuen to Meredith. He had a son whom he bound over to service with a merchant at Meredith Bridge, now Laconia. When he was about seventeen he went to see the girls one night for which heinous offense, upon his return in the morning he was chastised by his employer with the twigs of the wilderness. The night following he once more set out on a pilgrimage, taking with him three hundred dollars from his employer's desk. He reached Ossipee, hired a man to take him to Portland, where he shipped on board a Russian merchantman which left the wharf only an hour or two before an officer reached Portland in pursuit. On their way to Russia they were attacked by pirates. The captain, thinking he would be obliged to surrender, expressed himself to that effect, but the boy told him that he did not propose to have his throat cut, and if he would give him two good men to help him that he would take care of the pirates as he had found a cannon on board, which they loaded to the muzzle and sunk two boatloads of buccaneers, as they were coming to board the ship. They reached St. Petersburg in safety and soon the news found its way to the emperor, who sent at once for the captain, who gave the boy credit for his bravery, and was ordered to send the boy to the palace immediately, which was done, and the Yankee boy became a nobleman of high rank and admiral in chief of the Russian navy.

In 1831 he came to America, landed in Boston and with his suite, drove to Meredith Bridge in great style. He found that his former employer was still living, and drove to his door and requested to see him. The old man came out surprised to see such a turnout at his house and was informed by the visitor that he had called to pay a bill he owed him, and on being asked whom he was, replied, "I am Count Zinchercoff from St. Petersburg," and the old man was more mystified than ever, and could only say, "I do not know you, sir." He was then asked, "Do you



remember a boy by the name of William Williams who was bound out to you and to whom you gave a sound thrashing, and the next night disappeared, taking with him three hundred dollars from your desk? I am that boy and I have come from Russia to pay the bill. How much will it be?" The old gentleman said he would be satisfied with the amount taken, but the count ordered the gold to be carried into the house and then paid him with interest to that date. He then said "I go back to Russia an honest man." He visited the old parish, about five miles north, where his father had preached, and on a pleasant Sunday morning was passing a well kept farm house, whose owner stood on the lawn with his baby in his arms and watched the splended turnout approaching. The carriage stopped; a heavily bearded face appeared and a voice rang out, "Halloo! How are you, Dick Neal!" and in a flash the response went back, "Hullo! Bill Williams. How are you?" "Carry the baby into the house, Dick," said the count "and go ride with me," and for a little while they were boys once more. This was the only time that he ever came back to America. He figured in the war with Hungary as late as 1848."

### **Meredith Parade**

In the halcyon days of olden time,  
When our jolly grandfathers were in their prime,  
When heroic deeds were so valiantly done,  
And when bloodless battles were fought and won,  
There were few gayer scenes or games ever played  
Than those at the trainings at Meredith Parade.  
They came from all quarters, the young and the old,  
The eager-eyed boy and the officer bold,  
And the women and girls in their Sunday trim,  
In those funny old bonnets that looked so prim.  
When the red-coated troops dashed over the green  
In the brightest of colors that ever were seen,  
While the music was ringing from bugle and horn,  
Oh, it was like magic to those looking on.

**THE END**























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